

as all other police officers shall be dealt with under section 23 of Cap. 235, although they do not fall within the provision of section 23. Don't let me have to go to Court on that.

Chairman: The question is that clause 3 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Sub-Clause 4 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 4. The question is that clause 4 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

(The Title and Enacting Clause were called and agreed to.)

Chairman: The question is that I do report the bill to the House.

(House resumes)

Speaker: The House resumes and I have to report that the bill shortly entitled the "Police Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1974" passed through the Committee stage with multiple amendments. The question is that the report of the Committee be adopted. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the bill shortly entitled the "Police Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1974," be read a third time and passed.

Hon. T. Etienne: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Speaker: It has been moved and seconded that the bill shortly entitled the "Police Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1974" be read a third time and passed. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clerk: Police Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1974.

Speaker: The bill has been read a third time and passed accordingly.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the bill that has just been passed, I want to give the Honourable Members of this House the assurance that if there is any injury to any rural or special constable, for the time being government will act under Cap. 235 section 23.

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SOCIETIES  
ESTABLISHED FOR UNLAWFUL PURPOSES AND FOR THE BETTER  
PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC ORDER AND PUBLIC MORALITY.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I beg to introduce the bill shortly entitled "Prohibited and Unlawful societies and Associations Act 1974".

Hon. T. Etienne: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Clerk: Prohibited and Unlawful Societies And Associations Act, 1974.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, before the Second Reading of this bill, I know that during the morning some discussion has been held on the importance of the matter and I think the Leader of Government Business, the Honourable Premier, has been apprised of perhaps of a certain wish, on behalf of members who do not belong to the

Government Benches. There are many matters which come before this House to be passed which are of public importance, but none I believe of such importance for several years and <sup>and I</sup> suppose everybody else including members of Government, have suffered from time to time by the inept precisising of their contributions by certain officials and misrepresentation and distortion of their contributions to the public through Radio Dominica. I hesitated considerably before I came here this morning due to the fact that although I give full support to the principles on which this bill is founded, I have certain detailed criticisms to make of certain ~~eluces~~ etc, which I think it would be in the interest of the public to know and I must state here that I do not intend to make any contribution to this debate at all other than what I have already just said, unless we are given the assurance by Government that the Government takes all steps to ensure that the public of Dominica be given the opportunity to hear this debate live. When I say live I am conscious of the requirements of libel and it is obvious that anything which is libellous in anybody's speech can be cut out by whoever the Government wishes to put to censor it. But I think I will insist that I take no part in this debate. I would rather deal with it on a public platform unless we have the assurance that we have a live publication of this debate. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Armour, you are aware of the existence of an Act intending to enable publication of proceedings before this House. The machinery of the Act is not yet operative. When it does become operative it is the function, as I understand it, of the Speaker and other persons to vet and to scrutinize the matter for publication. In the meantime are you saying that we should delay the passing of this Bill until such time as provision is made for the live broadcast of the proceedings before the House?

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware of legislation which has been passed by this House creating the Committee. I am quite aware of the fact also that you are the Chairman of this Committee for censorship. I have just indicated, as regards this bill, today I have no intention of taking part in a debate unless it is broadcast live. And I will say this with all due respect to you, I think it is a waste of time to wait for that Committee.

Speaker: If I may just add this. In other words <sup>what</sup> you are in effect saying is that you will not be taking part in this debate and your reasons are as you've stated them. Not that you are saying that anything ought to be done or can be done to enable you to take part. This is how I understand it and another point with your reference to libel you know of course that no proceedings whatsoever can be maintained by anybody against anybody in this House for statements made. You cannot in fact bring an action for libel in respect of anything said in this House.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, as we laymen say, we are not in Court. I said that if this debate is published live I will take part, if it is not I will go to my public platform.

Speaker: Thank You. Well I think that is it.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say something which is really out of order in a way? I am not prepared to say like the last speaker that I will not take part. I am quite accustomed to being misquoted and things stated that I didn't say, but I will continue to say the things that must be said, no matter what. I would ask though if in spite of the fact that we are not yet able to use the legislation, if the Honourable Premier under whose

portfolio the Dominica Radio falls if he would permit or arrange that the tapes of this debate be played, not only because I want people to know exactly what my position is, that in fact is a minor point, but the important point is that the public should know exactly what is happening. Half of the reason for the fear is the fact that people are not sure <sup>and</sup> not certain of what is happening and I think it would help a lot and give quite a fillip to people's courage, if they could themselves listen to the debate on this Bill. And for this reason I would be grateful if the Premier could perhaps make arrangement, quite apart from the legislation, to have the tapes on this debate played on the radio over a period of days I presume. Thank you.

Speaker: I don't think it is within the authority of the Premier to do that.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I thought he was above everything else.

Speaker: I am the person who controls what happens about matters in this House and I am not inclined to accede to that request at all.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I agree, Mr. Speaker, that you are in full charge of this House. We know this, but I am sure that you of all people realise even more than I do the importance of the public knowing exactly what is being said and I would be grateful. However, I would like to know if in fact this is going to be done or not because it would make a difference to the manner in which I debate this bill.

Speaker: Well you see this House is basically a political institution, but I do not intend to allow debates in this House to be reduced to party political level. Because if people are inclined to say one thing here and to say another thing to the public then to me that does not make sense. Members have said they will only say what they have to say if the public are listening.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I haven't said so. I don't want to interrupt too much.

Speaker: We cannot have double standards at this level.

Hon. M.E. Charles: No, no, no, I agree. I said that I am not following the last speaker that I intend to say all I have to say here, but I think I said it would be a good thing if the public heard what was being said because they would get further assurance about things.

Hon. Member for the North Eastern Electoral District, Mr. P.A.S. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add one point, if you would permit me. Mr. Speaker, you see the presentation of this bill is one of the most serious pieces of legislation ever introduced in this House. And the vastness and the solemnity of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is more than we can understand and appreciate and I would be very happy, supporting the Third Nominated Member, if what is being said here would be relayed over Radio Dominica so that there shall be no misconstruing or any sort of suspicion of anyone saying something that he did not quite mean or so. This is the contribution I have to make.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: I would only like to add one thing by way of clarification when I said to be broadcast live, I was in error, I do not mean live broadcast word for word; in fact what I was saying is a replay of the tapes over Radio Dominica.

Speaker: Well I can concede to that if that is the case but who will this House impose the duty upon to edit what goes over the air? (Voice: You.) It must be understood that you will have to rely on my integrity. (laughter) for I will certainly not allow the minds of the public to be abused by irrelevance, intrigue etc. I will allow a verbatim report of the proceedings over the air in the essential parts and I will consult each participant debating as regards what they wish to put across on the air.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the bill shortly entitled "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, 1974," be read a second time.

Hon. Minister of Communications & Works, Mr. E.A. Leslie: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to set out the conditions under which societies or associations may be declared unlawful; and to declare the society or association of persons commonly referred to as the "Dreads" to be an unlawful association.

The Bill provides for the arrest without warrant where members of unlawful associations appear in public bearing any distinction or mark of recognition of their society or association.

It seeks to rescue children and young persons from recruitment into unlawful societies or association.

The Bill would allow a grace period of 15 days after a society or association is designated unlawful before prosecutions are started. It allows an appeal against such designation to the High Court, and thence on a point of law to the Court of Appeal.

The Bill is intended to preserve law and order and also to dispel the climate of fear and apprehension now visible in the State from the behavior of the society or association mentioned in the Schedule to this Act.

Mr. Speaker, Dominica has reached a stage where there is a lack of discipline, there is no respect for law and order throughout the entire country, and if I may say this, Mr. Speaker, to a certain extent at all levels. On top of that, Mr. Speaker, there are some among us who have got a seemingly weird philosophy, a philosophy which is practiced in defiance of the will of the majority of Dominicans, and in so doing Mr. Speaker, they have subjected the majority to realities of fear and terror. There is a saying that the minority will have its say, but the majority must have its way. But today, Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a situation where a minority terrorists organisation seemingly forces and acts in defiance of the silent majority and wants to have its own way without the silent majority having an absolute say. They are instilling fear in the hearts of many Dominicans with the idea of revolutionary violence. Mr. Speaker, today the Caribbean is looking at Dominica; the World is looking at Dominica; investors are looking at Dominica. But we hear around town and in most quarters, - Mr. Speaker, the excuse - unemployment. The word unemployment has been used as a scapegoat for certain groups to commit crimes and other acts of violence. But I must say, Mr. Speaker, we are aware that there are two types of unemployment - voluntary unemployment and compulsory unemployment. The groups involved are those who voluntarily create unemployment. Mr. Speaker, if I may go down in detail to a certain extent. The groups who are now preaching their revolutionary violence and change of society etc. etc., in May 1972, the then Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier, Mr. Armour, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Etienne and myself, met over 60 young men

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in the Conference room of the Ministry of Finance, (at that time they called themselves 'Black Power') to discuss the problems that they had, and I must say at that meeting in May 1972, the spokesman and leader of that group was no less a person than Desmond Trotter, and at that time they spoke about lands. In a previous meeting in which the Chief Technical Officer, at that time, Mr. Wendell Lawrence attended, they were not interested in taking jobs on the roads on contract because as they said they were not going to build roads for Bourgeoisie to drive their cars on. At a subsequent meeting, the question of land arose, they were promised Crown Lands and they were supposed to have done an exercise and meet again with the three Ministers to finalise an area where they would settle. When the report came in they wanted land in an area very, very close to the airport. There must be no roads and no one who is not a member of the cult must be allowed to come within the area. Mr. Speaker, surely, with an airport and with people well over 60 or more living in the bushes close to that airport and cutting off themselves from society completely, government could not accede to such a request. I will not go into details as to probably the reasons why the airport was chosen.

Mr. Speaker, there are stevedores, long shoremen and lightermen employed on the Waterfront - members of the Waterfront Union and some of these men are regularly employed as stevedores, Longshoremen and lightermen, they get their daily bread, but they have left the regular employment and have gone into the sub-culture society. Mr. Speaker, no less a person than the Clerk of the House of Assembly, early 1973, informed me that a young boy of 19, whom she met in the Four-corners, mentioned that he was hungry and hadn't eaten for ten days because he had no work. Immediately I got in touch with the Manager of the Dominica Construction Company, Mr. Jack Royer, for at that time the newly built Roseau Boys School had just started. He was employed and after one week of earning bread, he walked off the job. Recently I saw him with his associates.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday the 15th August, 1974, I met six of the leaders of this group at Canefield. They were in a vehicle and I asked them to come in to see me on the following day, the 16th that was a Friday, so that I could discuss their problems and see whether Government could assist. They accepted, but on the morning of the Friday I received a message - a verbal one - We don't want to meet the bad man. I have not seen them to date. So when certain persons, Mr. Speaker say that the situation has arisen because of unemployment, Mr. Speaker, there is something greater than the unemployment situation.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to go into some of the activities, let us see whether those activities in fact were motivated by unemployment. Mr. Speaker, there was a shooting of a visitor during the Carnival season. Surely unemployment could not have motivated this. There was a slashing by cutlass of another person in Dominica during the National Day Celebrations this year, unemployment could not have motivated this. There is a system of walking in on to peasants' lands and reaping the crops and threatening the peasants: "If you talk, that's it." Surely, Mr. Speaker, this has not risen because of unemployment. There has been constant abuse of young girls who walk the streets if they do not respond when they are called 'sister', they may be called 'leggo-beast' and slapped or abused. If they are asked for a quarter or one bread and they refuse to give it they are assaulted.

Mr. Speaker, we know of certain instances in the schools where certain teachers have used filthy language and debased language to the students. These teachers surely are employed. The type of philosophy being inculcated in some of the young children today, Mr. Speaker, surely has not arisen because of unemployment.



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Mr. Speaker, it was only recently that Mrs. Phyllis Shand Allfrey was at her home in peace and quiet and she was stoned; this did not come about because of unemployment.

Mr Speaker, these activities are only the front line activities, but the true architects of this terrorist organisation are working on a communist take-over. Mr. Speaker, those in the background hold high offices in our society. Some of them work for the Government and are members of the Civil Service. Some are senior officials and some are heads of departments. Mr. Speaker, there is a certain member of the Bar Association involved in this and there are certain leading members in the commercial sector. These persons, Mr. Speaker, remain in the background and they push the younger persons to commit the crimes and to create disorder and confusion, until the time is ripe for the takeover.

Mr. Speaker, it was in March, 1917<sup>at a conference</sup> and again in November, 1917 when the Communist Party adopted the methods of gaining power which would bring about an economic and social change as we hear so often spoken about. Mr. Speaker, these methods are now being used by the movements and branches. The first method, Mr. Speaker, is to show themselves as persons dedicated to liberty and social justice, persons opposed to all forms of social injustices and above all, Mr. Speaker, the propaganda is based on lies, misrepresentation, and deception in order to create confusion. I will not elaborate on this, Mr. Speaker, you only have to read the "Twavay" and most recently the "Underground" to get the message. Mr. Speaker, the second method is to wage the struggle for revolutionary change by staging protests, demonstrations, riots and eventful violence. They have adopted the new style of the North American- the tactics they use now in protest. They use the tiny tots and the young children; they push them in the forefront while they remain in the background to create confusion. And if the law enforcement authorities come in, the younger children and the small tots are trampled on and you hear the cry "police brutality". Mr. Speaker, only two weeks ago we had a similar situation. After a certain sentence was passed in the Courts, children from the ages of ten to twelve were amassed in groups and they were marching up and down in front of the Police Station chanting 'Free Trotter, Babylon is fockeries.' Mr. Speaker, on National Day, I was in the bands and I saw certain Civil Servants and Teachers with drums and tins, with young children in their band chanting 'Free Trotter, Babylon is fockeries.' Mr. Speaker, this is the type of education that those who inculcate these ideologies, although they have obtained their BSC's, MA's and what have you, are giving to these children; they are, in fact denying the younger ones the same education that they got. More on this later, Mr. Speaker. The third method, Mr. Speaker, is the revolution by force. Lenin made it perfectly clear that the Communist activists must always and continually engage themselves in illegal work but especially advised them that they must seek to be in the forefront of all organisations like Youth groups, little associations, etc. but bearing in mind at all times that the ultimate objective in mind is revolutionary seizure of power by force.

Mr. Speaker, early in 1973, the movement for a New Dominica published a document proposing violence and it was on the 19th July, that year, a Resolution was moved by the Ex-Premier, Mr. LeBlanc, deploring violence and the threats or the use of violence as stated by the movement for a New Dominica in a pamphlet. This Resolution was unanimously passed by this House and a division showed everyone voted in favour of condemning those acts of violence and threats of violence as indicated in that document by the movement for a New Dominica. Mr. Speaker, the movement referred in that document

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with your permission, I will read Sir, - "the Government and their functionaries, the police seem to forget or are unable to assess the kind of revolutionary violence the people are capable of, force will be met with force." Mr. Speaker, this organisation membership is approximately two hundred in number and they have made a firm vow to steal as many guns and bullets as possible. But, Mr. Speaker, we hear the movement saying "force will meet force", but the time has come, Mr. Speaker, when the silent majority can no longer remain silent. The time has come when the movement and any association or group alleged or connected with this revolutionary activist or terrorist that say "force will meet force", it must be known Mr. Speaker, that we will fight fire with fire, and who don't hear will feel. We will use Moses law and the Communist terrorists are bound to yield - it's tooth for tooth, an eye for an eye, gun for gun, and bomb for bomb, hand grenade for hand grenade, raid for raid, blade for blade, knife for knife and Mr. Speaker, life for life.

Mr. Speaker, this is the continuation of what have been happening in our society. I have here with me, Mr. Speaker, a document prepared in 1973 as a programme leading up to the ultimate revolution. This document Mr Speaker with your permission, "To the movement for a New Dominica from Julien N. Johnson" - In the programme for community development he speaks about the Land Question, ownership and use of all lands - In the preamble he writes, "I submit the following for our examination at the meeting this afternoon." It goes on to the MND dialogue, and it says, which has been happening Mr. Speaker, "Dialogue with the urban workers - the Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union, the Waterfront and Allied Workers Union, the Dominica Trade Union etc.

Dialogue with Students - Primary, Secondary.

Dialogue with Nurses and Teachers."

And in section 1, I suggest that between now March and June we focus attention on the following areas - Wotton Waven, Trafalgar, Laudat, Morne Prosper and the people involved in covering this area would be Julien Johnson, Hilarion Dejean and Herbie Charles. In area No. 2 - Mahaut, Massacre, Layou, St. Joseph, and the people involved in this area - Gordon Moreau, and Desmond Trotter. In area No 3 - Loubiere, Pointe Michel, Soufriere, Pichelin and Grandbay, and the people involved in this area - Arthurton Martin and Earnest Merrill." In conclusion, he goes further and he says "I suggest before beginning the grounding session, that MND members must attempt to educate themselves of the peculiar objectives, conditions of the particular area, for e.g. peasant holdings vis a vis total village land area, vis a vis estate holdings, extent of estate production, unproductivity etc." And in the end in patois he says, "ce pour tout malheureux travail en semme pour changer Dominique. Ce pour nous tout travail pour faire revolution la."

Mr. Speaker, this gives us an indication of the activities that have been going underground over the past probably a year or a year and a half and is now moving up to the summit. But, Mr. Speaker, when we watch and look at what is happening in our society we are seeing that many of the unfortunate or many young people who may not have the chance of getting proper secondary education have been used by such people. They have gone out and inculcated in some of the younger people that the Establishment is no good. We must do away with the Establishment, Bravo. But the same people who stay within closed doors and in the background urging on the others to go on and destroy the establishment, they report to the said Establishment every day and at the month end, Mr. Speaker, they draw a salary from the said Establishment. Mr. Speaker, they say they must not ride in the white man's car, but you see them with pipes in their mouths driving in luxurious cars. At their homes they've got big radiograms, T.V.'s etc, and all the comforts of life.

which they accuse the so said Establishment of Dominica of having. Only two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker one young man by the name of Aurelius Jolly, who works in the Ministry of Education and Health, brought down some dreads from Fond Cole to his home to make a 'jot', that is food, I will come back to that later, and he prepared the meals for the guys - meals without salt, that is 'swine jot'. However he prepared a separate dish for himself in the presence of the boys. These have learnt their lesson, for they realised that they were taken for a ride. Mr. Speaker, if we watch the type of English they now teach the younger people, while when they write their other branches and associates from overseas, Mr. Speaker, they write in perfect English. We have heard some of them in the Court when they defend certain brothers speak fluent English. But Mr. Speaker, if I may go in slight detail in the dictionary of the 'Dread language' to hear how the people speak now, Mr. Speaker, if one of the members of this association wants to walk away he says, 'let us make a small motion', if he is in possession of an illegal firearm, he tells you 'I got a piece', if there is any person in society who is against their ideologies, you are called "Babylon". Immense buildings like this, the Police Station, and other buildings are called "endless concrete" (laughter from the gallery.) Mr. Speaker, in an Assembly like this when you watch the gallery filled with people and you see a tremendous crowd, you call that "endless man" (laughter from the gallery) On a question of the food, the food they eat, particularly vegetables and provisions, this is called "itals" and in order to create confusion in the minds of the law enforcements authorities, when they are in possession of marijuana, they are in possession of 'itae', the meats and fish, Mr. Speaker, are called 'jot' or 'swine', and if there is any food that has rice or salt in it, it is called "swine jot", that differentiates between vegetables and food which is "swine" and food mixed with salt "swine jot", because they don't eat salt. Now Mr. Speaker, if there is a lady for instance who may not accept their ideologies she is called a 'leggo beast', and persons who own a lot of wealth they are called 'the controller' and the security officers and the policemen, Mr. Speaker, they are called "swine-man". Now, this is the type of language that persons who have gone to Universities and have come back are inculcating in the younger people. People whom the people of Dominica were hoping would have contributed not only to the education of the younger people but to the economic development of the country.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier on, there has been infiltration all around. In our Civil Service, they are seen on many occasions, but unfortunately because of the situation of fear everybody is afraid to report - see and don't talk - this is the policy now, but they have been seen on many occasions, going through various files in the Ministry at odd hours, getting out documentation from the various Ministries for what, I don't know. They have infiltrated the Prison, a certain Prison Officer was seen on National Day, with a document asking for a donation for the "Free Trotter Fund". Mr. Speaker, young persons have been used now to steal not only money but guns. The same Friday when Desmond Trotter was sentenced, two young boys, at the Juvenile Court, were brought before the Magistrate, for having stolen three guns and when they were questioned what they were doing with the guns, they said they stole them for the 'Dreads'. That was said in the Courts.

Mr. Speaker, they are also trying to neutralise the Police Force, by mounting propaganda upon propaganda of police brutality, babylon etc. They have gone a little further, Mr. Speaker, they are now trying to disrupt and to overthrow the administration of justice in the State. And with your permission, Mr. Speaker, if I may again refer to the MND documents, here it is said "that one of their aims and objectives is the public control of all institutions -



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Radio, Courts, Ports, etc. I wouldn't elaborate, but I would hope that Radio Dominica again <sup>today</sup> plays a repeat of what Mr. Justiced Renwick said at the closing of the Session yesterday, for people are now taking the Courts for a ride.

Mr. Speaker, we had an incident where a young boy by the name of Kent Voliere who is not yet 18 years, stole \$1,500.00 from L.A. Dupigny and one of the brothers got \$500.00 from that to go to the United Kingdom. He is now in the United Kingdom. But when a brother can allow a young boy, under 18 years to steal \$1,500.00 and go to gaol while he gets a cut out of that and clears out to the United Kingdom I am asking young people who are present here to watch out and be on their guard because many of our young people have been used in like manner.

Mr. Speaker, we know that a lot of guns are in circulation. We know that a lot of illegal guns are in circulation. In the Court the young boys said they were sent to steal them for a certain organisation. But only earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, Dominica is moving forward, men with hoods went up to Mrs. Agar, and at gun point collected monies from her place.

Mr. Speaker, Government have got requests from peasants from almost all over Dominica who are afraid to go back on their lands, where they have worked and cultivated. We had an instance at Woodford Hill where a man confessed that for four months he couldn't go to his establishment because he saw something looking like an animal (laughter from the gallery) but he was not sure whether it was an animal and therefore for four months with eight children he couldn't go back on his plantation. Mr. Speaker, the time has come when people who have got their plantations must be able to go freely on their land with their family to plant and reap what they have sown, not people who voluntarily refuse to work because of laziness and other attitudes to come in and reap the benefits from the soil that this man has toiled for.

Mr. Speaker, we had a situation in July this year with a lady who lives in Bath Road opposite Central Water Authority, her name is Mrs. Piper. She has a young boy; he goes to the Academy, I think he was in Form III, when these boys from the Society got the boy out of school, and he was away from his family. After the first week, the mother went to the Police and the boy was apprehended and brought back. He returned to school, but after two days at school he was again taken away from the school and that time he went for 17 days. The mother again went to the Police, the boy was found again, this time in the jungle. He came back home and during the night while the mother was asleep, he disappeared and this mother has not seen her son since July - a young boy under 18, wild, living like Tarzan boy.

Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a situation where this group go around and they deface <sup>any</sup> property irrespective of ownership, irrespective of law. They take over houses, empty houses, and they just go in and bunk, and if the owner comes in, well you have had it. Mr. Speaker, we know that they are getting a lot of money, and this money does not come from Dominicans; this organisation, Mr. Speaker, is being serviced from an outside source. Only recently one of the leaders, who is supposed to be doing social work in Dominica, getting \$2,000.00 a month, was seen cleaning with a group of young boys the Portsmouth river. This was social work! Two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, Aurelius Jolly went to Fond Cole and brought thirty-two pounds of sugar and then demanded a receipt, an indication that whatever things they buy

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they must present a receipt to the Head Office for re-imbursement.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come when we in Dominica cannot take it any longer, the time has come, Mr. Speaker, when we have to restore law and order in this country and by doing this we have to be firm and hard. Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes provision in the interpretation - "a society", as indicated by this bill, means "any group or association of persons intended to <sup>be</sup> permanent or long standing, formed for the purpose of sharing and propagating a common ideology and objective, whose members distinguish themselves by a uniform, or by their mode of dress or manner of wearing their hair". There is provision under clause 3, Mr. Speaker, for the illegal Societies and Associations - "Any Association or Society whose members -

- (a) practice acts of terrorism, including shooting at or injuring a member of the police force or of the public thereby undermining public order, and public safety; or
- (b) Threaten or intimidate any public official, magistrate or any member of a jury or of the judiciary; or
- (c) by the destruction of crops, animals and buildings prevent the peaceful enjoyment of rights over property;
- (d) assault, wound, and hinder or prevent other persons from enjoying freedom of movement or association on the grounds of their race, place of origin or colour; or
- (e) plan, conspire or attempt to affect public health by tampering with or fouling or poisoning water supplies; or in any manner to deprive the public of other essential supplies; or
- (f) entice or coerce children and young persons under the age of 18 years to join their membership, thereby preventing their attendance at school; or
- (g) are required to take any oath or engagement not required or authorised by law; or
- (h) are required to keep their names or the names of any of them secret from the public at large; or
- (i) shall have any committee or select body so chosen or appointed that the members constituting the same shall not be known by the society at large; or
- (j) as well as any president, treasurer, secretary, delegates or other officers shall not be entered in a book to be kept for the purpose, and to be open to the inspection of all the members of such society or association.

is hereby declared an unlawful association or society."

Mr. Speaker, the bill makes provisions for other societies - "Nothing contained in paragraphs (g), (h), (i) and (j) above shall extend to the meetings of such Societies or Lodges as the Free Masons, the Foresters, the Odd fellows and like Societies that have been in existence before the passing of this Act, and whose Secretary shall establish to the satisfaction of a Magistrate that the society or lodge is being run in conformity with the rules which regulate such societies."

Mr. Speaker the Bill makes provision for arrest on public appearance - "Any member of an unlawful association who appears in public wearing any uniform, badge or motto or dress or other distinguish-

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ing mark/ or feature shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be arrested without warrant by any member of the police force."

The law makes provision for no bail to be granted - "A member of an unlawful association arrested under the provisions of the preceding section shall not be entitled to or be granted bail.

A member of an unlawful association arrested under the provisions of the preceding section shall be brought before a magistrate at the first possible opportunity.

It is an offence to harbour or recruit in the membership of any unlawful society or association any child or young person below the age of 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, the law provides for Aiding and abetting - "It shall be an offence against this Act to harbour or conceal any member of an unlawful society wanted by any member of the police force, or to encourage, support, conspire with, aid and abet any unlawful society or association or any member thereof in the furtherance of any of its objectives or in the infringement of this law or any regulations made thereunder.

A member of the police force may arrest without warrant any person whom he has reasonable cause to suspect to be a member of an unlawful society.

A member of the police force may with a warrant so enabling him so to do, search any home where he has reasonable cause to suspect, that a member of an unlawful society or association may be hiding, and may search other places or premises not used as a home without warrant where he has reasonable cause to suspect that a member of an unlawful society or association may be found."

The law gives them the prerogative, Mr. Speaker, that "a Society or association may appeal from the decision of the Minister who designated it an unlawful society or association to the High Court".

It gives the Minister power to designate an association an unlawful association or society.

And under the offences, Mr. Speaker, "Persons shall be tried summarily for offences against this Act, and if found guilty shall suffer the penalties set out in the following section. - Section 15.

"Penalties - (1) A Magistrate before whom any person is convicted for being a member of an unlawful society or association shall impose a sentence of 18 months imprisonment in case of first conviction and two years in case of a second conviction.

(2) A person convicted before a magistrate for harbouring or concealing a member of an unlawful society or association or of aiding, abetting, counselling or advising such a society or association shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for two years."

Mr. Speaker, there is allowance in the Bill for the making of regulations under this clause.

Mr. Speaker, having outlined some of the important clauses of this bill, I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is the bounden duty of every member in this House, not only to God, not only to our people, but to the country as a whole to support the bill. Today the time has come when we cannot pretend or be very sympathetic, Mr. Speaker, law

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and order must prevail. It is a national issue and I am hoping that the entire House will give this bill its blessing. Mr. Speaker, today is the day of decision making, today is the day when we should forget all our political differences. Today is the day when we should forget family ties and social ties. Today is the day when we must forget friends and acquaintances. Today, Mr. Speaker, is the day when we must think of Dominica. Mr. Speaker, today Dominica must be liberated. Dominica must be liberated from terrorism, Dominica must be liberated from lawlessness. Dominica must be liberated from fear; Dominica must be liberated from the sub-cultures and cults and groups, whose only motive is designed to destroy our youth and the nation as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to this House - let us execute our task without fear and come what may, Mr. Speaker, I look forward for every member of this Honourable House, members of the public, members of groups who are peace loving citizens of Dominica to come out now and to assist the Police in bringing back the peace and harmony in Dominica, for, Mr. Speaker, it is now or never. I thank you.

Adjournment

Speaker: This House will adjourn till 2.30 p.m. this day.

Resumption

(House resumed at 2.45 p.m.)

Hon. M.E. Charles: I rise in support of this Bill. I do so reluctantly. It is regrettable that the day should have arrived when we ourselves must take away one of our human rights enshrined in our Constitution. But this is almost beyond our control. Because in this bill, there is no doubt, an erosion of the fundamental freedom of association especially in the wording as it stands, but I expect it will not be passed in exactly that wording. However, it becomes necessary, Mr. Speaker, because a greater majority of people's freedom is being eroded and that is the freedom from fear. There is no doubt that in the past few months the community has lived under a reign of fear, even our Police Force for whom I have the greatest respect have also been afraid. It is obvious that they have not been able to do their work as well as they would like to. First, because they probably feel that they have not sufficient numbers against the numbers that they are confronted with and certainly because it doesn't seem to be known how well armed those numbers are. But there have been many losses of firearms in our community in the past year, we are all aware of that and it is the possession of such firearms and the way in which they are being used which perhaps make us so fearful. But though this legislation will be passed today, because I am sure that there will be no voice against it, it must be watched carefully. We must not allow it to stand on our Statute Books, one day more than is necessary. We must realise that it must be removed as soon as the necessity for it has vanished; may that be at a very early date, Mr. Speaker. But to fully understand the reason for our wanting this legislation, we must, of course, look at the entire background. I know that the Premier said this morning that unemployment is not the cause. I say it is not the only cause, there are other reasons for this reign of terror that has arisen among us. And I will confine myself, unlike the Premier, to the society which is named in this bill, that of the Dreads. I do not intend to speak of any others since they are not before me, but I hope the opportunity will be given me in the future, if other societies are to be outlawed that I should have the right to speak on it or other persons standing in my place should have the right to speak on it.

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Mr. Speaker, there are several categories of Dreads. There are the Dreads which arise because of unemployment, they are the persons who necessarily work just wander away across and join the most flamboyant society going because they have nothing else to do, they become part of this society. There are also the Dreads by frustration, people who are fed up because they cannot see any future, they cannot see anything happening; they cannot see anything going forward. And in fact by becoming a member of such a society and by continuing and assisting others in their society to bring fear into this island, they are preventing, in fact, any development that which itself makes them frustrated. Then there are the Dreads who arise by neglect of family life, parents who do not look after their children, who do not maintain their children, but leave them to the streets to roam. There are these Dreads who arise from that. And there are the Dreads who have good family life, who are looked after by their parents, who are cautioned daily by their parents, but who because of the adherence to bad companions join the society. Then there are the Dreads who are in fact criminals, who are in fact disguising themselves as Dreads for the purpose of perpetrating the crime that they would in fact carry out whether they were dressed in that guise or not. They are the criminals who like to commit the act of larceny, who like to take away from the little peasants what he has grown in his garden who also like to take part in acts of violence, who in fact even commit the crime of murder. These are persons who are in fact criminals and are using the society of Dreads for the purpose of making themselves hidden. Then there are the Dreads who arise from the misuse of drugs. Mr. Speaker, they can be no doubt that the over indulgence in drugs that we have seen in the last four years in this island has caused greatly the drifting away from law and order, have caused the people who partake of this to become irresponsible, and therefore become part of that society. And then of course there is the last category, those who have become Dreads through being brain-washed, and there is a close tie between those and those who are dreads through drugs, because the brain washers often keep them that way, by in fact feeding them with the drugs which debilitates them and prevent them from really becoming proper citizens.

And Mr. Speaker, you must forgive me, if on the point of brain-washing, I refer to the part played by the Labour Party in the days when they had in fact, brainwashed the population. I was very glad to hear this morning the Premier refer to the word 'Bourgeois' as used by the Dreads in an unpleasant way in referring to people, but let us never forget that the word 'bourgeois', the words 'gros bourg' and 'petit bourg' the words 'masse day don' certainly are the creation of the Labour Party. It is not so long ago when the 'Educator' carried several articles under the signature of 'Eustace Francis' referring to 'gros bourg' and 'petit bourg' and 'masse day don'. Mr. Speaker, these things have been done. I am sure they are things of the past, but let us not, in concerning ourselves on how to cure ourselves of the problem, let us not forget the beginnings of the problem. And until the members of the Labour Party cry 'mea Culpa, mea maxima culpa', I will never believe that they in fact really want to stamp out the things we have seen today. We have had as a result of some of this brainwashing, direct results of persons being stoned at Fond Cole who were in opposition to the present Premier; we have had the direct result of speeches at Lagon engineered against certain persons who were running for election, speeches which referred to the estates - grapefruit estates - of certain members. I remember quite clearly the words - 'this man has grapefruits, big ones falling on little ones, and little ones making little ones, the people should have those grapefruits.' Mr. Speaker, it was not a member of the movement for a new Dominica who used those words, it was a member who now sits in this House. As a result, of course, the people heard the cry and they have made the grapefruit fields their own. But I presume



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it has gone further, as a result, and the real big brain washers, referred to this morning by the Premier have used this ground already softened and ready for absorption of these things, and you find therefore that certain persons can prepare papers for Seminars and can state that they must learn themselves, they must educate themselves to understand the areas, understand the villagers' need, understand the productivity of the estates in the area. Those have just arisen out of statements made unfortunately by the Labour Party in their campaign.

If we are sincere about wishing to wipe out the scourge we have among us, we must remember that when we are electioneering, the country comes first before the vote and before the party. If we continue going round talking about 'gros bourg' and 'petit bourg', 'bourgeoise' and 'massa day done', then it is obvious that we have not yet decided to come to grips with the problem and to cure the problem for good and for all. Because Mr. Speaker, this legislation will not cure the problem, it will halt the evil, it will permit the police to really take stringent steps to bring in the culprit, but that does not cure the problem. We have to look much further. Having found out the background that has given rise to these things, we have to look much further.

We have to remember that when the St. Mary's Academy people erupted, they were not shown the door, they were <sup>not</sup> told that this is a matter for your schools, you must <sup>not</sup> discipline at your school. No, they were not, they were received, when in fact the members of the Opposition are never received. I am talking of the past, Mr. Speaker, and under a new regime, things have changed, but when the members of the Opposition requested time and time again an interview with the past Premier, they were never received, but the St. Mary's Academy rebels were received and the St. Mary's Academy rebels were told that Christ was not told how to wear his hair, why should they tell you that you must cut your hair. We have come full circle now, and we realise that all of these patterns must be changed if we want to save this country. But we must remember the past so that we can do better in the future.

Mr. Speaker, then we must talk about the break down of respect for law and order in the Church, and we will remember that it was the past Premier, Mr. Edward LeBlanc, who said of the people who worked so hard in the Church and who have worked so hard to discipline the children whom they teach in their Church schools, it was he who called them 'blood suckers'. We must not forget that. We must eradicate those things if we are to succeed in bringing our country back to an even keel. We must not forget either the LeBlanc's party adherents who during the last Election strung up dirty shoes around the Bishop's Palace and tried to insult him and tried to show the people of the area, an area that requires much more uplifting than anything else how to undermine the influence of the Church. They were the members, and of these party members were the present Premier, and the Ex-Minister of Finance, at that time they were buddies, who took such strong part against the Bishop.

Then we mustn't forget also the breakdown as regards the Courts. We had Mr. LeBlanc saying in this House, when he spoke about the National Dress, at that time it was requested that the Courts should be allowed to fashion their ~~own dress~~ because they were a responsible body. (In fact subsequently this was provided for in the legislation.) We have this said by Mr. LeBlanc, "Why should I let any foreign little boy come here and tell me what to do in my court; I am the highest court in the land." Mr. Speaker, these things were heard and they were applauded, not only by persons in the gallery but by high members of the Civil Service. And therefore I am not surprised

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to hear today from Mr. Premier, and I presume he has proper authority for saying so, that not only the senior officials in the Civil Service, but Heads of Department belong to this Dread Society that we are going to outlaw today. Mr. Speaker, one of our young people may face the gallows but I think some time the gallows might be prepared for other people who began this business, and who have left us without explanation in the plight in which we find ourselves and which we do not know how to overcome.

Mr. Speaker, quite apart from looking at the past to find out where we have come from, we must look to the future. We must plan for the future. We must not merely outlaw things. The 'Donts' are not the important things of life, the 'Do's' are the important things of life. And so there are several heads under which we must consider how we must act. There is no doubt that an Educational campaign is required. But before you can begin it, you must clean-sweep, you must get rid of the people who in fact are not educating our people but are brainwashing them. How you do it and do it properly is something I am quite happy to be consulted on, because I think the young minds of people are far the most important things in our life and if we are going to permit them to be warped and twisted, then we have failed in our duty to our community. When I say Educational, I go as far as University, and it is for us, (even though we cannot afford to pay our contribution) we have a right still to see that guide-lines are laid down. It is not enough to whisper behind our hands in corridors nor is it sufficient for us to meet in the Cocktail party and pass on the gossip of who said what and who is saying what in the school. We must lay down guide-lines, in advance, of what we want our teachers to do and how we want them to do it. There is no point complaining afterwards, if we haven't stated what our needs are, and how they must be carried out. And therefore I think an educational campaign first to clean out the ones that are of no use as teachers and also to begin an active brainwashing in a good way of the young people is of vital importance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one might adopt some of the ideas of the Metropolitan countries and have a compulsory national service for young people, not the army, not marching and toting guns, they are toting enough guns already, they know more about guns than I do, Mr. Speaker, perhaps not you, but they know more about guns than I do, and obviously, Mr. Speaker, this is not what we want. We want a young army of people working for the community. It has been developed recently in England, that persons who are convicted, especially young people, that these people are put to work for the community, not gaoled for the purpose of eating <sup>the</sup> community's bread, but put to do actual work to build the community. And Mr. Speaker, need I say that there are so many things to be done that we haven't got the money for, that we should use these people who are in fact anti-social and make them social. And I think that out of this service we should have an Employment Agency to be operated, so that when they have been cured of these illnesses which they suffer from they can perhaps be found steady employment.

There is of course the need for rapid injection of capital in this community, but there are lots of things that have to be done first before we can get people to want to put capital in our community at the stage at which we are. This is something necessary, because although I say that employment is not the only reason, and in fact is not the main reason, for the formation of these Dreads, there can be no doubt that with proper employment, catching the people early, after you have prevented them being spoilt at school, you may be able to train them to have a pride of achievement. Something which we have lost in Dominica. In fact, it is almost wrong in

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Dominica now to talk of achievement or to talk of pride in having achieved. And this is something which we must build back in our community or there is no point in passing the laws we are passing today. Until people realise that they must be proud of having achieved, not only because of the monetary gain but because they have achieved. Until that is done, I can see no point in having the 'Don'ts', because the 'Do's' are necessary.

Then Mr. Speaker, a stern censorship of films is essential. I heard the Premier speak this morning, and I was glad to see that he is so conversant with the Dread language, and in fact I wrote down his little vocabulary, so I could know it myself when I hear it, I myself having not got close enough to them to have learnt it. But it is obvious that a lot of these things have come from films which are being recently shown and I think there must be a stern censorship of films. Recently I believe we passed an Act in which we added Censors to our Censorship Board, well let them do their work. And if it is necessary not to have films every night of the week, let us not have it but have good films that people can learn something from and not just deteriorate in mind as a result of these films.

Now Mr. Speaker, although I have given some of the pointers, I am no expert, nor are we here experts, and I think we may require somebody who can guide us who can delve into it to find out some of the psychological and social reasons for these things happening. These are ones I have considered myself, but I am sure that there are more things underneath which I am not able to talk about and I think we must look for the expertise to assist us. We have heard the Premier speak about fighting fire with fire, we know that the information, the material for the brainwashing is coming from overseas, let us get something good from overseas to fight that with too. And I am sure you will find that there are several bodies prepared to assist in this.

And then, Mr. Speaker, there must be a real effort to stamp out Narcotics. If the law is badly framed, let us do something about it. If the law requires tightening up let us do something about it. If we require more policemen who are goat-like mountain climbers, let us get them, so that they can find the places where the narcotics are grown, and they can destroy them because this is something which is really evil in our community. Until we can stamp this out we will not be able entirely to use this Bill with authority.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we want tightening of the security at the Gaol. We have here in the Bill, something which I am not going to fight, that persons, should not have bail, but Mr. Speaker, where are we going to put these two hundred, these four hundred, these six hundred when we pick them up? Where are we going to put them? At the gaol which is like a football field, everybody walk in and out as they like? Even in the Police Station here there is not enough room, or do we move out the Police to board elsewhere and use the whole Police Station as a place for suspects who have not been granted bail? Mr. Speaker, this is of vital importance and it is one unfortunately which cannot be attended to overnight because it requires fund and it requires people to do something about it. But something must be done about it.

And Mr. Speaker, I am touching on a sensitive point and I have mentioned this once or twice before in passing. We require a legal officer who is whole time working in applying the law. At the moment we have not got it. We have a legal officer who is too busy looking after raising funds for this impoverished island. May be he is the best beggar we have, let us use him for begging, but let us get somebody else who can sit down with the police and really do

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this work. We want somebody attached to the police force now, who can interpret the Act and decide what charges should come out of them, because although the Police are very able they are not , legally trained, although they have some legal training - those who have gone abroad - they are not completely legally trained. And though I am going to support this Bill, I wish to say that many of the things in it could have been corrected by using the laws already in our Statute Book, but it requires somebody whose whole time duty is to sit down, when information comes in, you don't have to look for him, he is right there with an office in the Police Station, and he says this is the charge, lay it before the Magistrate, let's get him out tomorrow, let's get him tied tomorrow. So we want a legal officer whole time occupied in applying the law. When I heard the Premier speak this morning I realised that there are several of the matters he referred to that could be brought under criminal conspiracy, but are you asking the Police who do not get such information often to draft these charges? I think no, you must give the Police assistance by having a legal officer who is seeing to it that the law is applied. There is no point in our sitting here once a month for a whole day and passing laws if the laws are not applied. And this is what is happening now. We have laws on our Statute Books, it wasn't so long ago, that we passed a racial Act, not a single charge has been laid under this yet, not a single conviction under this yet, so therefore we didn't require the Act. What we require is the application of the law that already stands on our Statute Books.

And then Mr. Speaker, again referring to the Premier saying, that we must fight fire with fire I agree entirely, and since he knows that the persons who are at the back of the Dreads are getting outside aid ~~let us ourselves get~~ outside aid to fight these things. Let us fight outside aid with outside aid. Let us face it, again with all respect to the Police, they are not strongest in the Detective work. Let us get expert detectives, let us get them to arrest these men who are meeting and conspiring against the country. Let us get them. Let us find people who can detect these crimes that are being committed. Because I don't only want the overt crime charged and convicted, I want the crimes which we don't see, but which are really causing this upheaval. So let us get outside aid and let us fight outside aid with outside aid.

Now Mr. Speaker, there are several matters in this Bill which I am worried about and which are best taken in Committee stage. But I am particularly concerned, and I am sure the other side will see with me, that this Bill is making provision for the suppression of societies established for unlawful purposes. But in the definition clause of "association" it says, "means any group or body of persons sharing common beliefs, practices and ideology, who unite either temporarily or permanently to achieve a common object." Mr. Speaker, this applies to the Labour Party, it applies to the Freedom Party, it applies to WAWU, it applies to DAWU, it applies to DTU, it applies to every professional organisation in this island and therefore I am sure if we only put in the word "unlawful" between "common" and "objective" we will have gained what we really are here to gain today. Because nowhere in this Bill is the objective being considered lawful and I would like to make sure that if somebody of the Freedom Party goes heywire and shoots at a policeman, that you don't outlaw the Freedom Party. I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, you would like to do this, but I am sure the rest of the House would not like to do this. (laughter) So, Mr. Speaker, I am asking that we protect our other associations who in fact have no unlawful ideas in their mind and let us make sure that they are not outlawed by pure accident. I notice, of course, that clause 3 subclause (2) has provided for

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Forresters, and Odd Fellows. I can well understand why the Premier is so keen on this. Likewise I quite agree with it, but I would like to see that my Bar Association is exempted also.

And, Mr. Speaker, apart from this and apart from the other things which I am going to bring in, there is one other point which I must bring in at this stage. You know that I am always complaining that Ministers have too much power under new legislation, but from all I have said about this legislation, you will agree that I must find fault with clause 13. I don't want the Minister to make regulations. Who is going to be the Minister of Home Affairs? Oh, you, the Premier, good! However I still don't want the Minister. You may be thrown out, Mr. Premier, and perhaps the Minister of Home Affairs will become the Premier of the country. (laughter) And I would not like that the Minister should have that control. As I said, this is an infringement almost of our Constitution; it is a necessary step and I am all for it. But I want it to be curtailed I want to prevent any further infringement. And since we are meeting regularly every month, and since we call the meetings of the House at six days notice, in fact you could call it at twenty-four hours' notice, (emergency meeting), let us meet and let the House itself decide these things. Let us not leave it to a Minister to pass orders which nobody knows about until they are laid on the Table two or three months later on.

No, Mr. Speaker, this time I am afraid I must object to that clause altogether (clause 10). I notice that this legislation outlaws already the Dreads, it does not give them any right of appeal the way it is worded. I don't know if you wish to give them a right of appeal, but you haven't given them the right of appeal which is given in the other cases. Also in clause 10, the Minister may designate any society. Mr. Speaker, it is true that this is subject to a negative resolution but I would prefer that the House meet and outlaw on its own any association. Let us do it ourselves. We are in fact infringing our own rights. Let us ourselves take the steps, let us not leave it to a Minister, capable or not capable, though he may be. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Member for Bureau South Electoral District, Mr. R.O.P. Armour:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to this bill. (interruption)

Speaker: If I may just mention one thing to Miss Charles. What if the need arises for there to be a society to be declared unlawful and the House is dissolved? Only the Privy Councillors/ <sup>or</sup> the Ministers have legislative powers.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Well, let us make it an exceptional circumstance and let us accept it as this, but not generally please, not the Minister having all this control. Otherwise it obviates everything.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying I rise to give my support to this bill. But having said so, it is obvious that in the course of the Committee stage, there should be amendments which I think I will indicate in the course of this speech. But, Mr. Speaker, as I observed during the course of this morning's presentation by the Premier, a presentation which was brilliant in accordance with his usual standard and his type of oratory, I will say that obviously the remarks which I am making now would apply equally to the bill before us - The Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Association Act, as to the Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act, 1974 because Mr. Speaker, although the second bill will be considered later it is obviously two bills in one bundle. One designates a society which we are dealing with now and the other re-introduces



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corporal punishment, oddly enough in a bill which is entitled the "Abolition of corporal punishment (Amendment) Act." It re-introduces corporal punishment, obviously for the major objective of getting at the type of act which the society is now frowning on and which have been the basic tactics of the Dreads. Mr. Speaker, in rising to defend this I say that we have to look at the problem in various segments and I am thankful to the Honourable Third Nominated Member for having pointed out that we will not have solved the problem today because, Mr. Speaker, when you cut off their hair, it just means that you will not see them and I don't believe we will close our eyes and the problem will disappear. Mr. Speaker, as I say I rise to support this bill and I think from the physical point of view, the bill will achieve the short term objectives of the society and of the government. I say from the physical point of view because I think that the very heavy compulsory prison terms which are indicated under this bill, will do much to separate the sheep from the goats. I think it will do much to drive off those youngsters who perhaps have gone out looking for kicks and perhaps who if they are not stopped now will later get into the habit and the pattern of violence and provocation and become confirmed addicts to that sub-culture which the Premier referred to. So I think, it will have one immediate effect of cutting out the jokers from the crowd. Similarly, I think the powers of summary arrest are very important because one of the tremendous frustrations of a policeman is to see a crime being committed and he is told that he has to go back to Police Headquarters, go down to New Town, try to locate where a Magistrate is, he may be bathing in the river, and get him to put his signature to a warrant to come back to Queen Mary Street to arrest somebody. I think it is absurd, it is a joke and it was long overdue when we, as a society, realise that crimes are being committed, or a crime of this nature is being committed, all of a sudden and somebody has moved, and the powers of summary arrest are important. As I say the heavy sentences .....

(change of tape)

Yes Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before being interrupted, I think it is extremely important that certain modifications are made. Clause 6 (2) reads as follows:- "A member of an unlawful association arrested under the provisions of the preceding section shall be brought before a magistrate at the first possible opportunity." Mr. Speaker, we know that law is something which can be stretched out infinitely and I think it would be perhaps important if this House considered putting the words 'within three days', so even if a man is arrested on a Saturday he could be brought before a Magistrate over a week end, or the first possible opportunity. It is all right to arrest him without warrant, it is all right to say he is going to have a heavy sentence if they convict him, but I think in the pursuance of some of the basic objectives of justice that there must be some time put to when a man should be brought before a Magistrate because we must always bear in mind that he could be arrested and he could be innocent. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the whole society agrees that the re-introduction of flogging is important, but Mr. Speaker I think there has been much confusion in the way the bill 'Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment)' was drafted. We have re-introduced flogging for the shooting of a policeman, but we have not in fact re-introduced it for <sup>the</sup> maiming and wounding of a policeman. When we come to the paragraph dealing with the visitor we have said only the shooting of a visitor, so, although the Honourable Premier, in his emotional style, made reference to the instance where somebody was almost hacked to death, none of these acts, as drafted would have made provision for the flogging of those persons who committed the crime because he did not shoot the people, he cut them and the same section which specifically says that "for wounding, maiming or

shooting a member of the Royal Dominica Police Force" says only in the case of residents, for shooting residents.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know on which bill the honourable member is speaking? Whether he is speaking on the Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act or the Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act? Surely he cannot be speaking on two bills at the same time.

Speaker: The speaker did indicate that it would be necessary in order that his argument be tangible to make reference to the "Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act.

Hon. Premier: Then when the House will be debating the Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act, he would not be able to speak a second time.

Speaker: I wouldn't say that. What he is in fact doing he is inter-relating the proposed legislation for relative sense.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, I thought that the Premier said this morning 'fire with fire, blade with blade, lash with lash'. We are talking of the package.

Speaker: I have been looking at it from the point of view that he could in fact be referring to a newspaper article to support his arguments; in this sense I regard the bill.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, I know it is difficult to burden the Honourable Premier's mind with too much at one time.

Speaker: You see he is talking on policy, and I cannot really restrict policy.

Hon. Premier: According to his saying 'Go on ox'.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Are you calling the Speaker an ox? (Aside: Hon. Premier: You.) Oh! Mr. Speaker, I will try to ease the position. But Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, we will have to go into details in these bills, because we would all like to see these bills work in a proper manner. We have, Mr. Speaker, under clause 7 of the Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, the question of harbouring or encouraging people who are members of the Dreads. Now, Mr. Speaker, we must be very careful because there are certain offences created in clauses 7 and 8 of this bill. Clause 8 for instance says, "It shall be an offence against this Act to harbour or conceal any member of an unlawful society wanted by any member of the police force or to encourage, support, conspire with, aid and abet any unlawful society or association or any member thereof in the furtherance of its objectives or in the infringement of this law or any regulations made thereunder." Mr. Speaker, I can envisage that one, they call them, 'Dread I' or whatever it is, running back <sup>out of the street</sup> into his home and the father and mother being arrested for harbouring such a man and being guilty of an offence, and the offence under this Bill which is stated at Clause 15 (3) reads, "A person guilty of an offence against this Act for which no penalty is prescribed, shall be given the sentences set out in subsection (1) of this section," and that is 9 months compulsory imprisonment in case of a first conviction.

Speaker: 18 months.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Oh, it is a misprint, 18 months. Then my argument is even more forceful. A person would be sent in compulsorily for 18 months, even though he was not a member of the Dread. We

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must be careful how this bill is being operated. Mr. Speaker, I know that we all condemn the Dreads and we feel that harsh legislation is necessary, but I think in all principles of justice, because I find here, not only in my legal capacity, but as a representative of people in Dominica, people who are not only old but young, people who are living in the society and people who in many circumstances have changed their <sup>way</sup> of life, of being a little bit radical, perhaps they assemble on the street corners now, but in three or four years time they have changed, and although we want to see very heavy laws to eradicate the society called the Dreads we must give some discretion in offences. Mr. Speaker, I am talking of the things set out in clause 5 - "Any member of an unlawful association who appears in public wearing any uniform, badge, dress or other distinguishing mark or feature shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be arrested without warrant by any member of the police force." Now automatically, an offence as designated in this law will be 18 months imprisonment. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an illustration because it is only by illustrating something that you can see whether there is inherent justice, or something which may be so serious that as one lawyer has said convictions will not be obtained. Because make no mistake, if in fact someone is brought before the Court and it appears to a Magistrate that the sentence is so harsh that it is out of all proportion, he will twist the law to ensure that the person is not convicted, and instead of the police getting in a man who deserves the three or six months, you will find that he goes off scotfree. This has happened on several occasions when the Magistrate has bent over not to convict somebody because the law was too harsh. And I am saying this, a young man of 17 decides he is going Dread, he has not as yet beaten up anybody, he has not as yet stolen, he has not as yet cursed anybody, he is still hesitant, but in fact one day he is anxious to grow his hair long and comes in public and you hold him, he may be a G.C.E. level or he may be from Primary school. He goes before a magistrate, the magistrate has no alternative but to send him <sup>in</sup> for 18 months in the first instance and first offence. Mr. Speaker, if we want to get away with the Dreads let us do it, but let us not so become barbaric, let us not have such official barbarism, that in fact we put a lid on a powder keg. Let us not believe that we are riding on such a crest of popularity by passing these Dread laws, but in fact we can stop there and not look to all the other problems which need solution to eradicate the Dread problem. And so I hope in Committee we will look at these things and find whether in fact on a first offence, something does not happen.

Mr. Speaker, I talked of firearms and ammunition. One of the principal problems of the police is the fact that there are so many firearms out. In neither of these bills, not in the one we are considering the "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act" nor in the "Abolition of Corporal Punishment" can you get this sentence: the sentence has not been put for the unlawful provision of firearms. I would have thought that one of the tightening <sup>up</sup> of this law, if we have to introduce the cat for wounding, maiming policemen and for shooting residents, and for cutting up a piece of dasheen, what about people who have unlicensed firearms and who keep them there and who can kill. (interruption)

Speaker: The Chair has been given notice that various amendments will be forthcoming and will cover the points which you are making.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Various amendments will include these. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if there are various amendments well that will take care of these. So in other words there are places under which

they could be sentenced. You say the cat for the rape of a girl of 12, but what about multiple rape of a girl of 15? Well all these things must be done.

Speaker: That is also proposed and there will be an amendment.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: You see, Mr. Speaker, I probably was thinking in advance to assist the Government. So, Mr. Speaker, in rising to support this bill, we say that we must not go overboard. We must not allow ourselves to be complimented for eradicating the Dread solution and at the same time abroad to be held by the International Society to be going over with all the elementary principles of justice. And I think we must be extremely careful. I know that this law was hurriedly done. I know that it was done at emotional level and I know it was done to take advantage of a political tide which seems free to take a man upward and outward but in fact we, who do not believe that politics is everything in life, think that we must be careful exactly when we go through with this legislation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stop there, and I will be stopping there except to conclude. We have talked of the physical threat which I believe has been met. We also think of the moral and social principle involved and in this I would like to join with the Third Nominated Member, Miss Eugenia Charles, who said that in fact if we can see our way at an early time to get this off the Statute Books we must do it and we hope that the government will look at it at such a time. Mr. Speaker, when you go back to the cat, you go back to the days of slavery, to the days of colonial oppression. You go back to the days, 50 years ago, when people did not think of corrective punishment; because when you scar a man physically you lessen his chance of coming back into the society. And so we must be extremely careful that if this Bill is necessary now, it must not remain as something which is a more than farcical thing for an emergent Dominica.

The solution, Mr. Speaker, is economic development. It is quite true the Premier said that there are people who were employed and left employment to join the Dreads. It is quite true, as he said, there are prominent people who are very well employed etc. some of them being hypocrites. I can remember three days ago, going down the street, a very prominent individual, who seemed so very nervous in a small car, stopped alongside me and said that we expect you to talk on Tuesday, so I looked at him and I smiled. I said but surely I expect you to talk first on Monday night at Lagon before I talk on Tuesday. Somebody who always condemns me, now expects me to talk in his favour, when in fact a law is being framed up to flush him out. Mr. Speaker, I have no sympathy with such people.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is economic development. This morning I asked some Questions, and I was given some Answers, but Mr. Speaker, when we say that there is depression, when the Honourable Premier presents a Budget which he says has cut back maintenance to the same level which the last Minister of Finance had it last year, when in fact we talk of 4 million six hundred and forty thousand dollars to be spent on Canadian Aid - St Joseph School, 1.6 million - and he tells me that nothing is done, Aid to Banana Industry, Poultry Processing, Water Supplies, no one can indicate. When he talks of the schools which have to be built in 1974 - Morne Jaune School - \$100,000. extension Wesley School, extension Portsmouth Primary, nothing has been done. What is the use of making Budget. What is the use of saying that you are going to provide employment, if our minimum promises, with all the brilliant oratory at our command is not achieved at all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill and I look forward to the day when we can bring new brains to bring new solution so that the economic and social development, the community development, the road development, which is needed can be brought about. And this can only be brought about when we break down the administrative barriers by new ideas which is impossible for captive Ministers to do (voice: I agree, 1966-1974 -- 8 years, it is only now you know that.)

Hon. A. Moise: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed regrettable that such drastic legislation should be introduced in Dominica today. We always knew Dominica to be a very, very quiet place where people lived in harmony, where people enjoyed all the best of things as they could, but one cannot deny the fact that since the Labour Party came into power from 1965 there has been a vast change. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed regrettable as I said that this legislation has to be introduced, but I have to support it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a few questions. I am not expecting the Minister concerned to answer those questions, but I look upon them as pertinent questions. I must say I was happy to hear from the Honourable Premier this morning, that he knows almost every Dread in this country. I do not know one Dread, and that is why I would like to ask those questions because I would like to know how to identify them so that I may know them when I see them as I am prepared to support the bill. I am prepared to give my co-operation to the Police by reporting the mischief done by any of those Dreads. I understand from the Honourable Premier that there are two hundred of them. Mr. Speaker, I will now ask the questions and if the Premier wishes to answer them, he may, and if he does not, it makes no difference. First of all I would like to know the identification of a Dread because I do not know who is Dread or who is Dread-not. (laughter) Mr. Speaker, the second question is how long have the Dreads been in existence in this State? The third question is where they originated from? (Aside: Hon. Premier: Outside Dominica.) You want to answer, I can give you time if you want to answer the questions. The fourth question is have the Dreads a parent-body in the State? or do they associate or affiliate with any other association in the State? Well, I got the answer "Yes" from you already. Mr. Speaker, the fifth question is what if a non-member of the Dread commits a similar offence as mentioned in the bill will he receive the same punishment as that stipulated in the bill? I want you to answer this question and by that question I mean anybody who is not a dread, any ordinary man, will he receive the same punishment? For an ordinary man who is not a member of the Dread can also commit the offence of shooting. There have been shooting incidents before. These are the things I want to know beforehand, because I want to support the bill and I want to know what I am supporting, lest I might be condemning myself. Mr. Premier, you are not bound to answer me now, but the questions being prepared already, I am just putting them before the House.

Speaker: Mr. Moise, when in this House you wish to ask a Question, you first ask leave of the Chair as to whether you can put the Question. I merely take it that you are asking Questions but not really expecting to get answers.

Hon. A. Moise: No, no, no, I don't want answers, I am just putting the questions. If they wish to give me answers it is quite all right but I am not asking for answers. I said so before, Mr. Speaker. (laughter from the gallery)

Speaker: Order.

Hon. A. Moise: Mr. Speaker, the other question is what if the Dreads disbanded themselves after 15 days and continue their objectives loosely what will be the result of this attempt at Government



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protection? For instance, they could disband themselves. I see already some people who were wearing their hair long have cut it. Does that mean they have disbanded themselves? I do not know. For right in this House there are Ministers and Ex-Ministers - I do not know, so you see these are the things I want to know. To continue Mr. Speaker, will the opposite sex receive the same punishment as men if suspected to be a Dread? All these things I want to know. There might be a little more compassion for the opposite sex, so I would like to know whether they will receive the same punishment? And the last question which I have prepared, Mr. Speaker, is, Has the Prison enough cells to accommodate prisoners? And has Government enough money to supply food?

Now, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Bill, I do not want to say much since we have the opportunity to make amendments to the bill in Committee. I would like now to refer to one or two statements which were made by the Honourable Premier this morning. According to his statement, I can see that the Dreads are not really a society or association, but something which gradually assumed this name through a process. Because according to the Honourable Premier, he said that once they called themselves 'Black Power', so it means before they became Dreads they were once 'Black Power'. That is what he said and I am just repeating it. The Dreads therefore are not an association, but they assumed the name through a process, from this to that. He then referred to the Twavay, which is MND, so it means that once they were MND, then the next stage they became Black Power, and the third stage the Dreads, so in other words it means that Black Power and MND are all Dreads, that is what is meant according to his statement. And, Mr. Speaker, he went further to say that top civil servants are included. I will not say no. He did not mention the Police, but I say some of the Policemen could also be members of that too. (laughter). Also the Ministers. (laughter) Now you must not laugh at this, for I am very serious because if we look at one little incident, you will see what I mean. A policeman does not need someone to tell him to report someone for using indecent language, he knows that it is against the law. A policeman does not need someone to tell him to report this man because he has not paid his licence. I saw about 44 policemen after me to pay my licence, and I had no money to pay it, and they wanted to devour me. They knew that from 1961 I had been driving in Dominica and had been paying my licence regularly, but this time I had no money, but they gave me no chance they reported me because of my position no doubt, I do not know, and I was brought before the law and charged. They did not want anybody to tell them so. Now, there are certain acts which were committed right in Roseau, for it is a very big offence when a flag of a nation is burnt in public before Ministers with policemen witnessing the incident, because I was there and saw it, and no action was taken. They needed no one to tell them to take action against those people who did it, but they did not, so therefore I am justified in saying that they are among the Dreads too.

Anyway I am glad today that the Honourable Premier has this problem. Because from 1970, we know all the phrases they used. The Premier, Ex-Premier, and Ministers as well, they all introduced this thing into this country. We have the ex-Minister who was a parrot; (laughter) Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the statement. They are the ones who started it, but today it has gone beyond their control, and they see that they can do nothing. I can remember when I went up to the Morne and I told the Ex-Premier that I would give him all my assistance and he told me that it was not required because it was a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. And before I could reach in town a state of emergency was declared and I had seen his cliques around him (to the Premier: You too were there.) (laughter) but he could not even tell me that he was going to declare a state of

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emergency right away. So they are the people who really introduced all these things, they planted the root and as a tree it has grown. But it has reached such a height, that they must now use force. I am very glad for if we can stop it now, I will support it. But if they had stopped it when we wanted it stopped, it would not have gone so far. I remember too the Four-Corner boys, who were being harassed by the police as they were doing things to the visitors, and some of the Ministers would say to them don't worry about the policemen and when the charges were brought they would put them aside. This is what has been going on in this country and that is why things have reached that stage. And I am sorry to say that this present Government is the cause and since you are the cause of the present state of things we will support you to fight it. But it is a pity, for if you had taken heed in the early stages when the Opposition was always speaking about the situation, then there would not have been anything like Dreads in Dominica, or whether there had been Dread or Black Power, or White Power or Yellow Power, I believe they would have been living in the same society as ourselves without any fear or any trouble. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, my heart bleeds profusely when I listen to the presentation of a bill which if government had taken cognizant at the time when a stitch in time would have saved nine it would not be almost too late to mend at present. This morning I opened with a few words which I will repeat - the presentation of this bill is the most serious piece of legislation ever introduced into this House for parliamentary debate. The vastness and the solemnity of this particular legislation is more than we can understand and are able to appreciate. This legislation is not dealing with inanimate things or things so to speak, it is dealing with human beings. Professor Harold J. Laski of the London School of Economics says - the political stability of a nation lies not in its material wealth nor in its mineral resources but in its human potential. This bill, Mr. Speaker is to affect the lives of the future generation of this country. Whether I may support it, Mr. Speaker, in the manner in which it has been presented, I may be the only one to be reluctant in supporting it for the implications of this bill. Mr. Speaker, has far-reaching effects beyond the horizon. The statements made by the Premier this morning using the law of Moses is not the answer to peaceful solution when he asked for peace by the churches. (applause). It is regrettable, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the former Premier who was one of the major architects of the situation is not here to answer the charges. It is also more regrettable to know that the person who prepared this bill is absent - the Honourable Attorney General. May be he conveniently absented himself for fear of his having to explain certain things indicated in this particular bill. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't like to go over what the Third Nominated Member has said, but I think the Government is to be blamed and I will be dealing this afternoon with the causes of the situation rather than the implications of the legal matters laid down in this bill. I am no lawyer. I have never been to the inner Temple, but I think I have a degree of logic and understanding (laughter and applause from the gallery).

Speaker: If I may make a further announcement. It would seem that we may have to delay the passing of this bill so that we can secure a House in which we can actually work. I have always said that I am not the type of person who will entertain any difficulty about doing what I have to do. If it means that the bill cannot be passed today, it simply means that it cannot be passed, but I will not tolerate interruptions from members of the public. I will continue when the House is cleared. I repeat, I do not want interference by clapping and I mean that no matter what the consequences may be.

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: If I may continue, Mr. Speaker, it is common international knowledge that when any government wants to rule or govern by dictatorial principles suppressing public opinion by legislation, I mean the Seditious and undesirable Publications Act, when in truth and in fact in 1973 a state of emergency was declared when nothing was going on; when the St. Mary's Academy question which was referred to came up for government hearing and a host of other things which may have led up to the situation, government has found itself and has embarrassed its country in no mean manner and in a way in which the people cannot enjoy life. All over the world they are concerned about their economic salvation - We have two problems social and economic problems. We should be looking into our economic future now, but we have to turn our limited financial resources into restoring peace and order in the State. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad story. I do not know how members look at it, but in this bill there are no provision made for the people who are not carrying firearms. I don't know how many people saw it. The police have firearms, the Dreads are alleged to have firearms, but the civilians have no firearms. What happens if during the pursuit of police duties in tracking down Dreads there is an exchange of fire and then somebody innocently is hit, who is going to be charged? I suppose the Attorney General under this Bill. No provision is being made for compensation for those people. It may go down as accident, it may go down as misadventure. These are things I suppose when we get into committee stage we will deal with. As I said before I am very sorry that the Attorney General is not here. (Voice: Man shut up.) You can't tell me to shut up, if this is the conduct of the Premier, we must have Dreads. (Aside: Hon. A. Moise: That's it.) and I will come back to what I was saying, you will not distract me. It is the type of tactics used to distract a member when he has government under serious blows. I am coming back to the point. No provision is made for the people who may be innocently wounded. A man may be in his garden, planting his bananas or looking after his sheep or his goats, a couple Dreads may run across and a police may be tracking them down, this is what I mean. The police may fire a couple shots in the air and the Dreads may retaliate the man gets killed, what happens? When I warned the Government on the 2nd May 1974 that by driving the Dreads off the corners they will go into the hinterlands and they will improve their guerilla warfare with more effectiveness, no notice was taken of that. When in my motion I indicated that too many retired civil servants got jobs, leaving too many people qualified without jobs and this was endangering the society, my motion was thrown out by this government. I didn't even get support from my worthy Opposition. I knew these sort of things would have happened and I go further, Mr. Speaker, I know I may be pulled up here, but a fact is a fact. When a Speaker of a House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, (Aside, Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Hear, hear!) has been brought before the House on a censure motion against the conduct of the Speaker, you didn't expect not to have a deteriorating society. When parents refuse or fail to take their responsibility and go to the schools and curse the teachers when the teachers try to carry out proper disciplinary measures, Mr. Speaker, you didn't expect not to have Dreads from this situation. When some of the parents clapped <sup>hands</sup> for joy for the 8 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. period of school when they could take their children back they didn't know they were leaving them at home on their own, sometimes for two or three hours before they came back from work which would give them opportunity to remain in idleness. There are many other contributory factors, Mr. Speaker, and I could go on and on till tomorrow morning but I do not want to keep the House here too long. All these things, Mr. Speaker, have added up to the unfortunate situation of our having to come here to enact legislation of such a stringent nature. I fear Mr. Speaker, for

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the enactment of this legislation and I am wondering whether the words used by the Honourable Premier this morning are not tantamount to carrying out a situation which may provoke what he was trying to explain - retaliation.

It is very serious, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I prefer, Mr. Speaker, may be the only one actually, and I must say that I condemn the Dreads, before I take my seat, I condemn them for their actions. I am not going to condone violence, Mr. Speaker, but, Mr. Speaker, I want it known that I wish that in this law provision would be made that in the same way as you can arrest people or Dreads on suspicion that people who carry out misappropriation of funds should also be arrested on suspicion, (Voice: Hear, hear!) who carry out squander-mania of public funds for all these may have been contributory factors towards Dreads; Mr. Speaker frustration has set in. Frustration because of a system of administration which lacks decency and decorum, Mr. Speaker. Frustration, Mr. Speaker on all front. I do not say that unemployment is the major cause. There are some people who are unemployable because they are unable to find themselves the right type of work. But, Mr. Speaker, I have a solution to the problem for the Dreads. It is no point passing legislation and not having alternative solution. The Land Management Authority has three Estates in Dominica - Melville Hall, Castle Bruce and Newfoundland. And I think if Government would make another effort in trying to get hold of these fellows; not by force because I fear, Mr. Speaker, the Dreads do not live all in one particular area, they are not cut off by one political division, they are intermingled in the society and therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for such legislation to operate. I say that the land which government has, which the Land Management Authority set up is making a mess of, I think if they were to get these people together and get them to organise in co-operatives, make an effort, they would get a solution to the problem.

In the 1974 Budget when I was speaking and I was told to take my seat by the Honourable Premier, Mr. Speaker, if I were given an opportunity, probably we wouldn't have Dreads, because some of the things which I was coming up with, I was prevented from saying them in this Honourable House. I was trying to suggest, I had not reached the point, that an institution be set up for training boys to prevent them from becoming delinquent. I went further on my platform, for it is only there I could talk, to state that if Government would keep back some of the building of the Police Stations and the fortifying of their military resources, Mr. Speaker and going into an institution for training boys in the various fields of occupation and endeavour it would be helping to soothe the position, but I was prevented from speaking here. (interruption)

Speaker: Mr. Stevens, perhaps you would like me to leave the Chair, while you continue your speech?

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: I am not saying that you should leave the Chair Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: No, I don't really mind you know.

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: I am making points relevant to the causes.

Speaker: Can you bear with me for a moment. You see Rule 44 sub-rule (6) says - No member shall impute improper motives to any member of the House or indulge in personalities except on a substantive motion moved for the purpose. I am sitting here and being virtually abused by you. No one is taking any notice of that. I don't mind being abused

but I am not bound to be here. So if you prefer I can move away from the Chair and let you enjoy yourself *ad infinitum*. You say that Dreads exist as a result of certain circumstances in places of authority. If a member of the House in the House in making that observation is actually breaking the rules of the House itself then I would seem to think that that is also justification for the existence of Dreads. Anyway Mr. Stevens, let us be reasonable. Continue your speech, but just don't break any rule.

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: I didn't want to have to break any rule, but circumstances create situations, Mr. Speaker, and you see I would be a hypocrite and I would not be really speaking *my mind according* to the word parliament which means, 'parler' - to speak- from the French origin and 'ment' -the mind- from the Greek. I was just saying that had I been given an opportunity, excuse me Mr. Speaker, if I infringe, it is just a matter of informing this House in fact bringing them up, i.e. backdating, some of the situations in which I could have really contributed and I couldn't get the chance. Anyway, I will leave that alone and continue on the question of what I was talking about....Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I see that government has reached a point, where it has to enact legislation Mr. Speaker, to curb what is going on, but I would be happy, Mr. Speaker, that in the enactment of this legislation and in the national interest of the future citizen of this country and the country itself, Mr. Speaker, that every step taken is absolutely careful. Because, after all, the former Premier, Mr. E.O. LeBlanc, said at Colihaut in a meeting that he has friends and enemies and I wonder whether this may not give an opportunity to the law enforcement officers to operate in a diversified manner. I hope not. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is just the care I would like to see taken in respect of implementing this law so as to ensure that there is no outbreak of violence resulting in a civil war.

Hon. H.L. Christian: Mr. Speaker, Clause 3 of the Objects and Reasons of this Bill reads - "It seeks to rescue children and young persons from recruitment into unlawful societies or associations." For me this is the meat of the Bill. Because I am aware and perhaps I am one of those persons who have been speaking out to young people about this very thing. I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that this is happening in an alarming proportion in the State and I have never spared myself when speaking to groups and schools all around the State, to mention the fact that we were faced here in Dominica with a monstrous organisation which has its roots outside of Dominica, even outside of the Caribbean functioning in Dominica and we were all being taken for a ride. I think some of the things that I might say may have been said already, but this is a very serious situation in Dominica today and repetition helps to emphasise important issues. I am aware that teachers have infiltrated the Secondary Schools like wolves in sheep's clothing - The Dominica Grammar School, the St. Mary's Academy, the Goodwill School, are three cases in point because I have had to make inquiries and I have had to take certain actions by asking for police protection to protect those schools. And then we would hear over the Radio and all about in the papers that Government is using harsh means on young people to make them criminals. We hear about police brutality. In a meeting held with the parents of the Goodwill Junior School, I was given a mandate so to speak, by a large number of people there, asking me that the time has come to protect the schools, by sending policemen to prevent people from outside who were going into the school and disrupting the work of the school. In the Goodwill School non-descript individuals, I don't know whether they are Dreads or not, go into the school and actually disrupt the work of the school and abuse the teachers when they are asked to leave. These are things that have been happening. I have kept my colleagues aware



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of them. I have spoken time and again over the radio hinting at these occurrences.

Mr. Speaker, our young people are really being recruited into this nefarious society called the Dreads, that's a fact. People have rung me at my home, day and night. I am flooded with reports everywhere I turn in Roseau, that it is time for the Government to bring in some drastic legislation. That's what the people say; that's how they feel. How drastic this legislation should be is another matter. It is not for me to say. But I think the whole of Dominica is behind government in respect of putting a stop to the incidents that are racial, anti-government and anti-religious. I think for the past two years or more both State and Church have been taken for a ride because of the fact that people in responsible position in the Government Service are themselves leading the revolution that they wish to bring about. And it is not true to say that Government has done nothing about it. Already here in the House of Assembly, when it was said that the burning of the Canadian flag drew no response from Government, that is not true. For it was about a month after in 1971 when I addressed the pupils of the Convent High School, I told them that it was a disgrace and it was a serious thing for people to burn the flag of other people especially when those people are our friends. It is recorded in the Hansards. And it is a fact too that I initiated two Releases over Radio Dominica, when I was told that white people were being assaulted on the streets. I brought the Releases to Cabinet and got the Cabinet's approval for these Releases to be made over Radio Dominica. So it is wrong and I think we must speak with a degree of truth. I think there is too much politicking in this particular instance. People are being hypocritical about the fact that they want to support the bill. They pretend that they want to support the bill, but in the process they give us a feeling, at least I have a feeling that they are not quite sincere in the statement that they are making and I think those people must have heard those Releases. I am sure.

I am happy to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Judiciary has realised that permissiveness has shot its bolt. And I hope the local Bar Association will give His Lordship Judge Renwick their undivided support to curb contempt of Court in this State (Aside Hon. M.E. Charles: We have already done that Sir.) Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the concept and ideas of freedom and independence have been distorted in our society and people don't really and truly understand what is freedom and what is independence. Freedom cannot be enjoyed outside of the law. You can only have freedom within the law, because if we do not have that, a minority can take advantage of the majority and that would not be democratic. Mr. Speaker, laws are not made primarily to punish people as far as my professional knowledge as a social worker go, but laws are made to protect the majority from the minority who would probably because of misguided behaviour molest people and prevent them from enjoying peace and security. Laws are primarily deterrent. Even in this House Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come to give decent leadership (Voice: hear, hear) by curbing our theatrical politicking. It is often meant solely for the consumption of the gullible section of the gallery. (Voice: Bourgeois) Many a time I have been shocked by the buffoonery that goes on here in this Honourable House. (Voice. Hear, hear!) which should be reserved for the more appropriate place like Lagon. (Voice: Why Lagon?) Well not necessarily Lagon, I take that back, places where you hold public meetings for the plaudits and entertainment of people. They enjoy this entertainment - lambasing

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of character, slandering, more than really coming to hear reasonable expressions of vision relative to the business of the State. I cannot agree that if the Leader of the Opposition was present when they burnt the Canadian flag for he said other Ministers were there, I don't know how true that is, but what I think would like to say is, did he make an effort, or did he by any chance condemn them at that particular time? (Aside: Hon. A. Moise: You were there too.) Not me. Because you were there, you said that you were there. I am saying that I think that I would have preferred you to say that you were there and you expressed your disgust to them when they were doing it. I think this would have been responsible leadership and responsible citizenship behaviour.

We have heard this evening quite a number of half truths when it was said that the S.M.A. incident was the beginning of the Black Power Movement because the boys were not sent out of the Premier's Office when they came in on that demonstration. It is not on the records and probably you will not believe it, but I spoke on that occasion and the bishop knows that, brother Estrada knows that, the brother provincial who came down from Canada during the incident knows about the fact that I strongly condemned the boys told them that they were to go back to the school and that I would come to the school and discuss the matter with their principal and that is a fact. (intrrruption) I told them, I hold no brief for anybody else. I told the boys that they were wrong. I told them I was not going to entertain that breach of discipline and I supported the school in trying to maintain discipline. I went to the school and spoke to the boys. I told them the fact that I was a black man did not mean that I could support them in abusing their white teachers and white people on the whole. That's a fact, but the next evening my name was exposed on a political platform of the Freedom Party saying that I told them that I was black and therefore they should follow me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Third Nominated Member, Miss Eugenia Charles, for making a few very positive and instructive statements. I agree that there should be compulsory National service. When way back in <sup>the</sup> 1960's we held a seminar to get to grips with the problems of youth this was one of the proposals made by the group then that we should have one or two years of compulsory national service in Dominica. I also agreed about this question of mounting an employment service. We do have an employment bureau in the Ministry of Home Affairs, but I do not think that the Ministry of Labour can cope with the demands of the people that come there, but there is such an agency in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The question about bringing <sup>in</sup> psychologists to study our problems, alot of this has been done already. The developed countries themselves are puzzled by the break down of authority in our society today and as the Honourable member did say, the cinema is one of the primary forces that are polluting the minds of young people all over the world - not only in Dominica, by the indecent films that they show highlighting violence and immoral sex, that's a fact. (Aside. Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Sex is not immoral.) and also the mass media. Immoral literature, in my opinion should have been added to this. I would back strongly the government's effort to destroy all immoral literature on our book shelves here in Dominica. I have said it again and again and I think we should have the guts and the courage to do these things even if some people think that they are going to be affected. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, that you and all the honourable members here, we have no choice but to stand four square behind the fact with a view to restoring peace

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and security in our once very beautiful Dominica.

Hon. E.A. Leslie: Mr. Speaker, first of all what I would like to say is that it seems to me that 1974 must go down as a historical year for Dominica, for we have just learnt that we have had the longest sitting of our High Court in Dominica, and also the longest session dealing with one particular case in the court. And here today with my long experience of Parliament we have had the longest sitting ever on one particular bill. (Voice: No, no, not yet) Mr. Speaker, if it is not so, I am subject to correction, but yet it can be said that this bill has taken a longer time than was anticipated by any one of us here, and this is because all members in the House are showing such great interest in the passing of the bill because of the provisions embodied in the bill which behoves every member to stand and make a contribution. I myself feel that it is not satisfactory for me to just sit there and say 'Aye' when the time comes. But Mr. Speaker, so much has been said by other Speakers, that there is not very much for me to say. First of all, we must congratulate the members of the Opposition, who though it is not unusual, but on this particular occasion it seems to me to be unusual, that they should give their full support to the Government in the passage of this bill. And this is because, Mr. Speaker, that everyone of us in Dominica are now feeling the pressure and are dissatisfied with the present situation existing in the State and so feel that none of us should condone such action, but rather do all that lie in our power to see that it is brought under control. And what is really pushing us to take the steps that we are now taking is because it is still fresh in the minds of every Dominican that at one time Dominica was being spoken of as a little paradise in the Caribbean, a place where visitors were welcome and were free to enjoy a holiday without fear of being molested. This has been the position for some time but now some unknown element has got into our society and have created all sorts of unlawful societies as the 'Dreads' and 'M.N.D.' and what not.

Now, we have listened to the Opposition, they say that they support this bill whole heartedly, but they have in doing so tried to point out who and who are responsible for the establishment of such a society. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to associate myself with them because if I were to make a list of those who were really responsible for I am of the opinion that if the Dominica Labour Party is really guilty of such an accusation, the Freedom Party themselves cannot be left out of the arena. For I think it is fresh in our minds, those who have had the opportunity to listen to public meetings chaired by the Freedom Party, of the statements made at those meetings and will agree with me that that also helped to bring the movement to the position it has reached. When we listen to statements coming from the mouths of responsible people on the Freedom Party platform, words such as this "Blood must flow in the country like water flowing from the river", and "Blood ahoy!" When we listen to statements from responsible people of the Freedom Party who went down on their knees, probably at Grandbay, and one of them beat his chest and said, "I hope to live long to see the head of the Honourable Edward LeBlanc brought to me on a tray". All these words had a part to play in encouraging the movement we have here today. I can go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but what I am here to say is that we would save much of our time here by not referring to who and who are responsible, but by taking a decision now, as the actions and activities of these people have become intolerable, and so something should be done about it and we should set about the machinery in order that we might achieve our goal. It calls for unity between Government and Opposition, not Government alone at this time. It calls for the

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support of lawful organisations, lawful associations, it calls for the Church and every well-and-good-thinking citizen in this community to play his part in destroying the bad name which Dominica has obtained and bring it back to the position it held before, when it was called a paradise.

People speak of unemployment, it is true unemployment may have its effects but those of us who know better, know that a lot of people who are not employed, have employment at their doorsteps, but they refuse it. Now, in other countries, in order to establish, a certain type of employment, I mentioned a certain type of employment because in Dominica some people feel that certain employment is beneath them, and they strive for other employment, but in order to get the type of employment they desire, we have to show that we are willing to receive the foreigners. We speak of capitalists, but we must look for them outside of Dominica, and if we are to show them that we are willing to receive them and to assist them in enjoying their stay here in peace and harmony, something must be done about the present position. (Voice: Better late than never) Yes, better late than never.

Now Mr. Speaker, this bill speaks about the protection of young children and I believe this is very important. It is sad to see people who call themselves literate people who have had all the opportunities in life starting off from Elementary school right up to Secondary school and they can also boast that they have been to a University and they carry titles behind their name "A,B,C,D," and what not, (laughter) they must understand that those opportunities are not there for themselves alone to enjoy, they are to be enjoyed by the others who follow. But Mr. Speaker, by going around to the various schools, especially the elementary, and teaching the children from 7 upwards to smoke marijuana, they are definitely blocking the opportunities open to those children and in this way they are technically telling those children that they have enjoyed their opportunities up to University level but that they are blocking the way so that they do not reach where they have reached. This therefore is something we cannot tolerate at all and as a people we must have some feeling towards those children.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a stage where parents have no control over their children. When a man sees his child doing what is not expected of him he is just unable to correct <sup>him</sup> because the child will tell him that he cannot tell him what to do, he is big enough. This is because the child is already indoctrinated by some other group of people and this distresses the father who has taken so much care to bring up and educate his son.

All in all Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to see the number of people in the gallery, from this it can be seen that the people of Dominica have shown great interest in listening to the debate and this can be taken to mean that we have the loyal support of the good citizens in Dominica with regard to putting the provisions of this bill into effect.

Hon. J.L. Royer, Minister of Home Affairs: Mr. Speaker, (laughter) I have been listening to the debate from morning and Mr. Speaker, there is a saying which goes as follows, "It is appointed once for a man to die and after that the judgment." I do not care that much if when I leave this building, I do not reach home, but I will definitely support the bill that is now before us. Now, Mr. Speaker, when I grew up as a boy, Sir, I knew Dominica to be

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the Cinderella of the West Indies and some time later Dominica as the land of beauty. But today the people who have all the G.C.E.'s O and A Levels, have turned our land into the Desert of Sahara and the valley of Desolation. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard quite a lot from both sides of the House and I don't think that I need to say very much more as it will take up too much time, but what I would like to say is that we have to pass through this world but once, whatever we can do let us do it now, for we shall not be passing here a second time and with this I support the bill wholeheartedly.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Mr. Speaker, I beg your leave to give a standing ovation for the Minister of Home Affairs.

Speaker: I have no objection at this moment if anyone wishes to clap. (A wave of laughter and applause)

Hon. R.S. Fadelle: Mr. Speaker, like the the previous speakers I rise to support this bill. I support this bill for two reasons. The first is to allay fear in the hearts of the majority of the people of Dominica. I have been a freedom fighter and a member of the Freedom Party and we on this side of the House have joined this Freedom Party for the purpose of preserving the freedoms of mankind. And one of the freedoms that we preserve is the freedom from fear. And that is one of the reasons why today I wish to support this bill. The second reason for supporting this bill is because of the objects given here where this bill seeks to rescue children and young persons from recruitment into unlawful societies or associations. I am very happy to note that the Minister for Education and Health stressed that he has also supported this bill for this very reason and one of the objects for my moving a resolution at a later stage of the proceedings which calls for the operation of the Woodwork section at the Grand Bay school is to see to it that the young men of that area will get the necessary training to enable them to be employees of the State of Dominica. We have heard the Honourable Premier state that unemployment is used as an excuse. But Mr. Speaker, there are certain individuals who are unemployable and I refer to those youngsters who live school at the age of 15 or 16 who have no training whatsoever in any career or any technical field whatsoever, not even in agriculture. And I wish to stress that arising out of all these deliberations today that we see the need where training should be given to the young men and women not only in agriculture but in other technical fields because we need to have compulsory training as the Third Nominated Member, Miss Eugenia Charles pointed out this morning that it is necessary that we have compulsory national training. I don't think she meant military service, I think she meant civic service where our young men and women will be able to contribute highly towards the development of Dominica both in the industrial and in the civic field and also in the cultural field.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to say that our people of Dominica are the biggest assets that we have and it is regrettable that such a law has to be passed to curb the free desires, the unlawful desires of a minority group, a so-called minority group, which apparently is getting much support from the young people in this community. I feel that the people, being our greatest assets in this country should be developed to the fullest in order that they may make their worthwhile contribution in our midst. We have failed in our educational programme, and I am not hitting out at the Minister of Education, I am just saying that there is need for further development of our young

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people, that there is need to train them in the arts and crafts and in the trades that we wish to help develop Dominica.

There is also the need to instill or create confidence in our police force. Too often in the past have our policemen made arrests, I remember on one occasion some arrests were made down at the Four corners, and the culprits were turned loose by the Minister responsible at that time. This gives a feeling of frustration to the police. We have to allow the police to use their discretion and to perform their duty to the utmost. Without such confidence and such freedom of power, freedom to execute the laws that are being passed, it is futile, Mr. Speaker, to come here and waste such valuable time.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard that the boys have committed acts of terrorism in certain schools, but I wish to bring back memories of an affair which occurred at St. George William University in Canada, when our Government sought to give assistance to one or two of those who actually took part in those acts of terrorism. Mr. Speaker, we do not like to think of these things, but I have only mentioned this to show that these are some of the causes for what is happening in our midst today.

Then again there was the talk of the burning of the Canadian flag outside of the Royal Bank of Canada. I don't recall having heard the Minister of Education and Health speak on this subject until I happened to have dragged them over the hot coals at the opening of the Grandbay school. (Voice: That is not true.) I remember making that statement, in the presence of the then Canadian High Commissioner, and lamenting the fact that here it is we have allowed our people to burn the Canadian flag without even condemning the act. (interruption)

Hon. H.L. Christian: Mr. Speaker, on a point of correction. I sent a copy of my speech immediately after the incidence to the High Commissioner of Canada in Trinidad. (laughter) (Aside: Hon. ME. Charles: We should get a copy too. I am asking for a copy.)

Speaker: Order!

Hon. R.S. Fadelle: I am very happy to know that, but as I said, Mr. Speaker, I do not recall that such a statement was made before I condemned that act in the presence of the High Commissioner of Canada. Mr. Speaker, sufficient has been said and as you know this bill has our support and I do hope that further action will be taken for I know that the passage of this bill will never solve the problem, but we do hope that this will be followed up by sufficient action both in the educational field and in the employment field. Mr. Speaker, this bill gets my support.

Speaker: I propose to adjourn for refreshment at 5 o'clock, if you will last beyond 5 o'clock then we can adjourn now. If you need merely 10 minutes then we can hear you now.

Hon. Second Nominated Member & Deputy Speaker, Mr. Cleve Tavernier: Mr. Speaker, it will take less than that.

Speaker: Thank you. O.K.

Hon. Cleve Tavernier: Mr. Speaker, I now rise to give my full support to this bill, but in doing so, I must say that I heard the speakers on the other side of the House say that it is the fault of the Labour Party why we have to come to this Honourable House to



Cleve Tavernier:

legislato to stop this criminal situation at present going on in Dominica, a place which has been known as a peace-loving country. If I am to refer to the 16th December incident, then I will have to say that it is the Freedom Party that is the cause, but who really is to be blamed? I am saying that we the leaders are all to be blamed. And what we have to do now is to acknowledge our guilt and support this bill and help restore Dominica to its rightful place. Thank You. Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Trade & Natural Resources, Mr. T. Etienne:  
Mr. Speaker Sir would you please protect me, I am being referred to as the Bay Oil man.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill, frankly with very mixed feelings. Mixed feelings because I think it is rather late and if the necessary action had been taken at the appropriate time we would not now today be coming to the House with such a drastic bill which strikes at the very root of society. I think, Mr. Speaker, the reasons why the cult that is called the Dreads have come about has been fairly expounded and the reasons why we have to take action has been fairly dealt with by the Premier. But I think a number of things were said especially with the part the Labour Party had to play in this which I think are not correct and I would like to refer to one or two points made especially by the Honourable Miss Eugenia Charles. But before doing so, we have to understand that as a society we must grow up and I believe that one of the problems that beset Dominica at the moment and also the West Indies as a whole is that we are a people that have not grown up. We are a people who have not learnt to overcome the unfortunate events of our life and as such we tend to dwell with these events which culminate sometimes in the actions which we are now taking and in the situation which has developed among a number of our young people in this country. Too many people in this country and in the society have been adverse to change. I think change must come and people, especially the reactionary group, must understand that as we develop so many, many more people especially from the lower sector, tend to migrate to the middle sector and people from the middle sector migrate to the upper sector; and there must be room for entry for those people in every sector of society. I believe some of the root causes of the problem lies in the fact that reactionary forces have tended to obstruct the path of progress in the lives of many of those youngsters.

(change of tape)

We have seen the achievements of the Labour Party for the majority of the population of Dominica being subtly eroded away, and I can recall seeing certain types of people at Four Corners; young people with their parents in the country areas, parents who have struggled hard in the banana fields up the mountain sides to get a little money to send those children to school in town, with the children of well-to-do people who have almost everything at their disposal trying to lure them into a society which we are now trying to disband. I can also recall very well, Mr. Speaker, a young university student from very well-to-do parents, at Four Corners, trying to indoctrinate these same little boys whom I said came from the country. And today what do we see happening, these poor children from the country are in the gutters, they are driven in the forests, running about and this same well-to-do boy is now at the University of the West Indies. Now this thing is striking at the very root of society, Mr. Speaker. We've got to look at this from this point and not only from the point of view that there is social unrest, that there is unemployment and things like that. Mr. Speaker, I believe

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that we have come to a stage where change must take place, but I have always preached that change must take place within the existing institutions, we need not create new institutions there is enough room in Dominica for change to take place within the existing institution, the Democratic institution which we have, provided of course there is not too much resistance to it, and resistance to it has played a great part in what we see today.

Coming back, Mr. Speaker, to the question of the Labour Party's part in this, I have to say that man is but an ape. He likes to copy, he likes to do things which he sees other people do. He likes to do things because he has that belief that other people are better than he is, or other people are better educated than he is, and if they can do that he can also do it, and this is one of the reasons I believe why we have come to this state we are in. I remember the 16th December 1971, Mr. Speaker, when people who are supposed to be responsible, people who are supposed to know the rule of law and order, people who are supposed to respect the institutions of the State went into the House of Assembly, the highest institution of the State and broke it down. Mr. Speaker, each time I mention this my body shivers, (laughter) for people of such stature in the community to go into a House of Assembly and break it down and only saved the Mace out of respect for the Queen. Now, from there on what could the boys say, if these so-called people upper class, the privileged class can do that, why can I not do it too. And this is what we have today. When these very same people went into the new Market and broke it down and put up a demarcation line and say this is ours, and that belongs to the Labour Party. What can we do today but have people just go and occupy people's homes and say that this is ours. Mr. Speaker, this is a direct result of this. It is what we call aping what goes on and this is what has been happening.  
(Sedentary talking)

Speaker: We mustn't allow a speaker to be interrupted lest the Speaker be censured for permitting interruptions.

Hon. T. Etienne: Yes, Mr. Speaker, certain people have demonstrated their superiority and their privilege along those lines. And I am sure if you talk to many of those boys today they will tell you if they could do it why can't they do it too. And I said in the beginning that I am supporting this bill with mixed feelings and one of the reasons is because I think it is late. I think that if in 1971 this bill had come to the House with much less seriousness we would not be here today with this bill which is so very serious and striking at the very root at the very fabric of society. Like the Honourable Miss Eugenia Charles I have to say Mr. Speaker, that I hope, as soon as things return to normal, and let us all hope that it will return to normal as soon as possible, that this bill will be erased and taken off our Statute Books. I support it because I think the people who are called the Dreads must understand that we value freedom and that as a democratic society we tolerate all the good and reasonable things people should do, but at least they must understand that their punch must stop where the other man's nose begins, and they are now ready to throw the punch right on the noses of the population of Dominica. For that purpose, Mr. Speaker, I have no alternative but to support the bill. I am not too sure, Mr. Speaker, whether certain clauses of this bill are ultra vires. I have no legal brain myself, but I suppose in the Committee stage whatever amendments that have to be made will be taken care of. This is my contribution, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. First Nominated Member, Mr. A.C. Active: Mr. Speaker, I rise here also to support the bill. I should like to say that I feel very happy that the Opposition has found it fit to give their support to this bill except for one thing which Miss Eugenia Charles said that when we get into Committee stage there are a number of amendments which she would like to have put in. Earlier this morning we had two bills and the honourable Premier had found it fit to accept the recommendations made and I do hope in this particular bill we shall be able to accept those recommendations and so the House will support the bill with one voice. The Honourable Pat Stevens said that he was not quite sure whether he was going to give it his full support, or whether he was going to abstain but I do hope after the Premier has wound up that Mr. Stevens will find it fit to give his whole support to the Bill. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a number of things said since the idea of bringing this bill to the House came about. There have been rumours that the Dreads said we can cut their hair but that we cannot erase what is in their minds, therefore it is so important that we the members of this House give all the support that this bill needs so that we speak with one voice.

Mr. Speaker, some three weeks ago a top civil servant who spends all his week ends at his estate went to his estate at Watton Waven, found that there were about three or four Dreads on his orange tree. He saw them pick the oranges and put them in a bag. He was there with his family, but he was so scared that he couldn't go on to the estate itself, he remained in his car and when they came out on the road, he asked the chaps, "Hey mate are the oranges sweet?" but they just cut one and gave him two pogs and told him to find out for himself. Mr. Speaker, we can't allow this sort of thing to go on. Not only that we cannot allow this but we must do something. This is not the first group of violent people we have seen in Dominica. We have had the 'Ray passa', we have had the 'Howlings', and people's lives were in danger, but never has Dominicans lives been more in danger, or Dominicans more scared than they are today with regard to the Dreads. And for this purpose, Mr. Speaker, we must do something about it. We must not only think of the children who are now in this Dread society, we must think of our children and our children's children to come. We must stamp out this thing for there is nothing behind this thing but pure communism and we must stop this from the beginning. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

#### Adjournment

Speaker: This House will now adjourn for fifteen minutes.

#### Resumption

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, in winding up I would just like to make some comments on some points made. The Honourable Miss Eugenia Charles when she spoke made a point about the establishment of a National Service for young persons and I think the Labour Party and Miss Charles are thinking along the same lines on that point, because in August this year at the annual Conference of the Labour Party a resolution asking for the establishment of a National Youth Service was in fact moved by Oliver Seraphin and seconded by a Eustace Francis. With regard to the question of the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Anthony Moise, about corporal punishment for females, I would like to say that in Chapter 29 section 8 reads - "No sentence of flogging or whipping shall be passed upon a female of any age." So the law does not affect any female. I didn't hear much of the Honourable Pat Stevens' speech. I only heard where he made a comment that I said I will fight fire with fire and that at the same time I had a National day of prayer for peace. I would just like to say this, Mr. Speaker, that the Almighty God is all just and all powerful and in the ten commandments which he handed to Moses he said Thou

Hon. Premier

Shalt not kill, but he gave Samson strength and power to kill 10,000 Philistines to bring peace and prosperity to the Jews. Now, if I may comment, Mr. Speaker, on what the Honourable Member for the Rosaau South, the Honourable Ronald Armour said for he did not talk much on the bill in principle, as usual, and usually he has the attitude of misdirecting persons. He spoke about the question of cutting of hair, there is no such provision in this Bill which relate to the cutting of anybody's hair. Now Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this that this morning when I spoke, I spoke not as Premier of Dominica but as a Dominican, thinking of the situation as it exists in Dominica and I contributed my views. I didn't come here to express my political opinion or to have any political semantics on the issue. Mr. Armour in his speech said that the government was trying because of the present political tide to introduce this legislation. Mr. Speaker, I must say this that I have been a member of the Labour Party for a long time, and a Minister since 1970, and legislation such as this has long been overdue. I was a junior Minister under the said member who was Deputy Premier at the time when acts of violence were being committed in Dominica, acts done by the Black Power Movement and the M.N.D. There was a Resolution moved in this House and the Honourable member was present and he remained silent. Every member of the Opposition spoke during that time but he remained silent. We are to ask ourselves why did he remain silent during that time, probably he may have been one of their members at that time. Mr. Speaker, when the situation came about, I never pretended, I always came out and attack but the silence was due because the Minister at that time was afraid, virtually afraid because of his jelly-fish-like backbone and his cowardly attitude. Mr. Speaker, when he says that the situation has developed because of this present government having not got any economic development, I would like to ask the question when the member who made the statement thought about economic development, is it today because of the introduction of this bill or in 1966 when the election was won and the member then was Minister for Communications and Works up to July 13th 1973, ending as a frustrated Minister of Finance and disowned Deputy Premier? Mr. Speaker, during that time there was the stoning of the doctor at Bath Estate, who got a fractured skull, there was the stoning of the U.N. expert at Emerald Pool, the Minister who was then Deputy Premier remained silent and never spoke. (interruption)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Hon. P.R. John: I will not give way. He will quote the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the imputation of personal motivations to other members is not allowed. I would not like to interrupt, Mr. Speaker but during all this stoning times he was the Minister of Home Affairs in charge of the Police.

Speaker: Does your final statement take care of what..... (interruption)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: I think so.

Hon. Premier: I am speaking of economic development (Aside. Hon. R.O.P. Armour: He wants it sabotaged for his personal ambition.) and in order to enlighten this present House I must say that although the Minister of Home Affairs is responsible for the Police, the Minister of Finance and Development is responsible for the safety of all tourists. Mr. Speaker if I am to go further, I must say that in recent times too that things are still developing, because very recently at Marigot, there was supposed to be a Church Harvest Festival and vandals went in the place and stole only the fruits and vegetables, the itels, I presume. (interruption)

Hon. P.A.S. Stevens: On a point of correction, ground provisions were also stolen, they were going to Guadeloupe.

Hon. Premier: Itels! - vegetable, ground provisions etc. But, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a point this morning when I went into certain things, and I just want to make that particular point. The Honourable Member for the Southern Electoral District, Mr. Fabelle, raised a point when he was speaking and spoke about the time when the Canadian flag was burnt and this rang a bell. It was only about three or four days ago at Pointe Michel where a film was being shown in slides, run by one called Joey Peltier in order to raise funds and in those slides, Mr. Speaker, he was showing young people and other people, it was a silent film, and he gave the interpretation, and in the film, he showed certain areas in Africa as compared to certain areas in Dominica. And in that film what was in fact shown was a beautiful Police Station and an old broken down house, and the narrator in fact showed how the people in Dominica build enormous buildings for the Police (endless concrete) and an old wooden chattel house with eight, ten people living in it. But, Mr. Speaker, I just want to make that point that the man who was showing the film and in fact trying to inculcate this type of attitude in the people of Dominica was the man who burnt the Canadian flag in 1969. Mr. Speaker, according to the Dreads - trucey, trucey. Mr. Speaker, we are now faced with a situation with the infiltration of the communist attitude into the cult and their association. The idea of eating only vegetables and ground provisions - Mr. Speaker, some people may just think that it is just a fad, but there is a lot behind it - is done with an endeavour to get the body accustomed to the jungle way of life, the type of food etc. We have found out too that an exercise was done in 1973 at the same time that M.N.D. had this programme. There was another programme going alongside by an organisation led by Ernest Merrill called O.D.D. - Organisation for the Development of Dominica, and the only policy they had and the only programme they followed was tracing the old tracks in the old days right round Dominica, from the Carib Reserve going right round and they were mapping those tracks. Fortunately or unfortunately he is out of the State. But Mr. Speaker, the question is that the organisation is in fact organising itself, training its members and getting ready for some future time and it is imperative that the police are trained and that Dominicans - and when I say Dominicans, I mean the peace-loving Dominicans - give the necessary support and protection, support for us to have this lasting peace and unity and protection of property etc. Because, Mr. Speaker, many property owners, even the planters etc. are not protected and at a later stage when we go into Committee I will be asking for an amendment or an insertion in the bill to make provision where people can protect themselves at their homes and their property if they are invaded by any unlawful association or any unlawful person and be able to defend themselves shooting without any action against them.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to continue my plea for the support of all Dominicans in this national issue and I must point out that the organisation has a pledge Mr. Speaker, a pledge which I will read in parts, a pledge, Mr. Speaker, which we must not take lightly, because it has deep meaning in it. And when many people leave here tonight and go home they must reflect on the pledge and find out for themselves that if we do not act now, what Dominica will be faced with. Mr. Speaker, the pledge reads as follows - "If Death be an unwelcome visitor let it come so long as the message falls on one listening ear who will take it up and continue the battle. So help I - Jah". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. A. Moise: Could You give us a copy?

Hon. Premier: You want a copy, all right I will give you one.

Speaker: It has been moved and seconded that the bill shortly entitled "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, 1974", be read a second time. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clerk: Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, 1974.

Speaker: The bill now stands committed to a Committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

(House in Committee)

Chairman: House in Committee. Clause 1. The question is that clause 1 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 2.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Clause 2. In the definitions 'Association' and 'Society' the word 'ideologies' is wrongly spelt and I would like the word 'unlawful' added before the word 'objective' appearing in both those definitions. The reason for this is that it is the objective that must be unlawful because all of us in professional societies are in fact propagating a common ideology and objective but here we want the objective to be unlawful.

Hon. Premier: In the last line of the definition "Society" the word "or" should be substituted for the word "and".

In the definition "Police Force", I would like the words "and rural Constables" added at the end.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendments? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 2 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Chairman: Clause 3.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Mr. Speaker, in clause 3 I would like to make the following amendments - A new subclause (a) to be added to read -

3. Any Association or Society whose members -
- (a) plan, conspire or attempt to affect adversely public safety and public order;

Subclause (a) with some additions to become (b) as follows -

- (b) practise acts of terrorism including shooting at or injuring a member of the Police Force, Defence Force or rural or special constabulary or of the public thereby undermining public order, and public safety;

Hon. Premier: Yes.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I want to add to (b) which now becomes (c) as follows -

- (c) threaten or intimidate any public official, magistrate, judge of the Court, member of a jury or any other person by reason of his being a witness or likely to be a witness in any proceeding under this Act, or employee in an



essential service;

Hon. Premier: Yes.

Hon. M.E. Charles: And the next one (c) which will be (d) I want to add to it with your approval -

(d) by the destruction of crops, any cultivated plant, forest tree, root, fruit, vegetable production, animals, buildings or by the unlawful occupation of lands with acts of violence prevent the peaceful enjoyment of rights over property;

I want to leave the word 'crops' as well as continuing to say 'any cultivated plant'. I am thinking of the young cocoa that is being destroyed at the moment. I want also to add the words "or by the unlawful occupation of lands with acts of violence", because there are lots of people who are squatting and that is not quite the same thing.

Hon. Premier: Yes.

Hon. M.E. Charles: And the next one (d) which will become (e) I would like to add in some words which I hope will receive the approval of the other side. -

(e) assault, beat, wound, hinder or prevent other persons from enjoying freedom of movement or association on the grounds of their economic status, class, social background, race, place of origin, or colour;

Though beat is included in assault, it may not do any harm to have it spelt out.

Hon. Premier: I would like religious persuasion added at the end.

Hon. M.E. Charles: The old (e) will become (f)

(f) plan, conspire or attempt to affect public health by tampering with or fouling or poisoning water supplies; or in any manner to deprive the public of other essential supplies;

This doesn't change, it stays exactly the same. And the others except in the old (f) which becomes the new (g), the figures and word, '15 years' should become '18 years'. And the old (j) it is not a real change but something is left out to make it make sense, the words "the names of which" should be placed before the words "as well as" etc.

Instead of the present 3 (2) which will become 3 (3). I would like to add the following as 3 (2) -

3 (2) Any person who incites, aids, abets, counsels or procures by any means whatsoever, the commission of any offence under this Act shall be guilty of an offence.

Chairman: In the old 3 (2) which will now become 3 (3) you will also have to change the lettering (g), (h), (i), and (j), to read (h), (i), (j) and (k).

Hon. Premier: Yes.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendments? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 3 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Chairman: Clause 4.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Clause 4. I think it should read -

4 Every person who is or becomes a member of an unlawful association is guilty of an offence against this Act. It doesn't make sense otherwise.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 4 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it. Clause 5.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Clause 5 should be amended too.

5 Any member of an unlawful association who appears in public or elsewhere wearing any uniform, badge or mode of dress or other distinguishing mark or feature or manner of wearing their hair, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be arrested without warrant by any member of the police force.

I am unhappy as you know about having any member of the police force, I think it should be any policeman from sergeant upwards. You have just put some new police that have come out in September, on beat now around the Morne, they are very young and green. I am not very happy and comfortable about that. I hope to be persuaded otherwise by actual facts.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 5 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it. Clause 6.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Nothing is wrong with 6 (1)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: What I thought, Mr. Speaker, we should have a date line. We should give them three days or something.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Twenty-four hours.

Chairman: Not later than seven days after.

Hon. A. Moise: Too many days.

(all speaking at the same time.)

Chairman: The problem apparently is that of the restriction of 48 hours. It is already 48, they have the power to detain for 48 hours. If they are not going to have any time to do their interrogation, it is no point.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I want 24 hours for this special law.

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: But the ordinary law is 48 hours. You want to restrict it.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. M.E. Charles: Mr. Chairman, I am suggesting that 6 (2) should read -

6 (2) A member of an unlawful association arrested under the provisions of the preceding section shall be brought before a Magistrate within twenty-four hours, provided that where a Saturday, Sunday or Bank holidays intervene, the said twenty-four hours shall not include the said days.

I want it dealt with promptly when arresting without a warrant. You are letting the policemen who have only been policemen for a month, to arrest without a warrant. I want the man brought strictly and quickly to justice. He is either a free man or he is gaol man.

Hon. A. Moise: That's right.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. Premier: Twenty-four hours. Now for now.

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: Forty-eight hours.

Hon. Premier: All right 48 hours.

Chairman: The amendment is moved that 'within 48 hours and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted.' Those in favour of 48 hours? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, there is a new subclause (3) to be added to clause 6.

Hon. M.E. Charles: (to the Premier) That's where you are adding that amendment? Mr. Speaker, a sub-clause (3) to be added for people who escape who are in custody for the offences and people who aid and abet them in escaping.

6 (3) Any person, who, having been arrested under any of the provisions of this Act and who escapes and any person or persons who aid and abet such person or persons to escape shall be equally guilty of an offence against this Act and on summary conviction shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 18 months.

Chairman: The question is that clause 6 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 7.

Hon. A. Moise: Mr. Speaker, the last line of clause 7 (2). Have you any institution for delinquents here?

Hon. M.E. Charles: I am asking that this be left out until we have one.

Hon. Premier: We should stop at the word 'schooling'.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Yes, because this will only cause confusion in the Courts.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendment? Those against? The Ayes have. The question is that clause 7, as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Chairman: Clause 8

Hon. M.E. Charles: Under clause 8 we want a proviso inserted -

"Provided that the presence of a member of an association or society designated unlawful, in the home of his parents will not in itself make the parents guilty of an offence under this section.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. M.E. Charles: I think the words 'in itself' are important. If she is hiding the boy that's a different thing.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: If there is evidence to indicate that there is participation then.....

Chairman: In other words you are saying that parents cannot be harbouring.

Hon. M.E. Charles: No, no, they can be, but the mere presence is not sufficient. He might have just run home from an escapade too with the police after him.

Chairman: Those in favour of the amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 8, as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 9.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Chairman, we have a new clause 9.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Yes.

9. It shall not be unlawful for any person to kill or injure any person who is a member of any association or society designated unlawful under the provisions of this Act, who at any time of day or night, shall be found upon any private premises without any lawful excuse.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Any person can kill a man and say he has a lawful excuse.

Hon. M.E. Charles: In self defence (interruption)

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: If you are saying inside a dwelling house.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. Premier: Supposing he is in your garden.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Let us make it dwelling house. Because what else could he do in a dwelling house.

Hon. A. Moise: Yes that's it, a dwelling house.

Hon. M.E. Charles: The law in Jamaica - any one found in a dwelling house at the wrong time of night you have a right to kill him.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Could we hear that clause again?

Hon. Premier: "No proceedings either criminal or civil shall be brought or maintained against any person who kills or injures any member of an association or society designated unlawful, who shall be found at any time of day or night upon any private premises without lawful excuse."

You want - 'inside any dwelling house.'

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. M.E. Charles: You get up during the night and you see a person with his tam over his head and slits for his eyes. (Chairman: I will shoot.) (interruption)

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: Order, Order! As I see it the intention is to make the trespasser automatically liable upon being found in a dwelling house, not to the point of without lawful excuse. ~~You are going to wait to find out what is his lawful excuse? If he is there he is presumed to be there for an unlawful purpose. So I think we should delete the words, "without lawful excuse", otherwise it doesn't mean anything, you haven't changed the law at all.~~

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Suppose the man says 'Oh! I thought this was somebody's house, or, I came to collect my change.' (interruption)

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: It is not any person, it's a person under this Bill who is a member of an unlawful association and is found in your dwelling house.

Hon. A. Moise: How do you know that he is a member of an unlawful society?

Chairman: You must ask him. You see already he is committing an offence by being a member of an unlawful association, and he is in your house, so you are going to bother to find out whether he is there for lawful reasons? We should strike out the words "without lawful excuse" otherwise it doesn't make any sense. Then you will find yourself indicted and the prosecution saying the man had lawful excuse. So it's a waste of time, you are putting people in trouble. Are we deleting the words 'without lawful excuse'? All right. The amendment reads -

"No proceedings either criminal or civil shall be brought or maintained against any person who kills or injures any member of an association or society designated unlawful who shall be found at any time of day or night inside a dwelling house."

Those in favour of this amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it. The question is that clause 9 be added to the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

(Discussion still went on as regards bringing in 'work place' but this was not accepted.)

Hon. M.E. Charles: If I may make this observation. Jamaica has had this provision in the early nineteen hundreds and for a person of an unlawful society. If at night you see a hand over your windowsill - that's inside your house- you shoot him. Jamaica's law has always been that way.

The original clause 9 becomes clause 10.

Chairman: Clause 10.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Mr. Speaker, clause 10, the words "whom he has reasonable cause to suspect", in other words he knows for a fact, and has proved it for the man has boasted of the fact that he belongs to the Dreads. That is why I am worried - any policeman having a right to do this!

Hon. R.S. Fabelle: It should be an officer.

Chairman: Well, we have to credit the police with some sort of discretion in choosing their men for this task.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Anyway I am not happy about this, but I hope this Bill soon goes off the Statute Books.

In clause 10. An amendment is to be made to subclause (2), bringing in the words "warrant issued by a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace." But in practice do we have warrants issued by J.P.'s? So let us take this out.

Hon. Premier: But why can't they issue warrants?

Hon. M.E. Charles: They should but no J.P. has ever issued a warrant in his life. They will have to have a little course on that.

Hon. Premier: It is only the format that is necessary. We have it in our Firearms Ordinance.

Hon. M.E. Charles: It doesn't matter, so long as you bring in your J.P.'s and give them a little seminar, it's O.K. with me.

Hon. Premier: No problem.

Chairman: So how does it read?

Hon. M.E. Charles:

10(2) "A member of the police force may with a warrant, issued by a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace so enabling him to do, with proper assistance, enter any home, by force, and breaking of doors if necessary, and search the same if he has reasonable cause to suspect that a member of an unlawful society or association may be hiding therein and may search other places or premises not used as a home without warrant, where he has reasonable cause to suspect that a member of an unlawful society or association may be found."

I am unhappy about those words - the breaking of doors

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: Those in favour of this amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it.



Hon. Premier: There is a subclause (3) to be added to clause 10.

"No proceedings either criminal or civil shall be brought or maintained against any <sup>member</sup> of the Police Force for any action taken in performance of his duties under this Act."

This will give the police full protection.

Chairman: Those in favour of this addition? Those against? The Ayes have it.

The question is that clause 10 as amended stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 11-the original clause 10.

Hon. M.E. Charles: I am against this altogether. I move that this clause be deleted.

Hon. Premier: You cannot come to the House of Assembly every day.

Hon. A. Moise: It doesn't matter I will come if you call.

Hon. M.E. Charles: This bill is far reaching, I think we must get the out-lawing to be done each time by the House of Assembly.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Why don't we say that the Minister may by order to be upheld by a motion (interruption)

Hon. M.E. Charles: But it has that: it says to be subject to a negative resolution. Anyhow, I am not happy about that.

Chairman: The question is that clause 11 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 12 which is the old clause 11.

Hon. M.E. Charles: You have given the Dreads no right of appeal. You have taken every other right that they have, surely you must give them the right of appeal.

Hon. Premier: They have the right, it is there stated.

Hon. M.E. Charles: The right of appeal is only referring to people who are so designated by the Minister under order, but these are designated by legislation. I think you must give them the right of appeal.

Chairman: Are you saying that we should delete the right of appeal here?

Hon. M.E. Charles: No. I am saying that the people who are designated under this Bill, I think we must allow them the right of appeal. The way it is worded here the Dreads could not appeal.

(all speaking at the same time)

Chairman: If a Dread is arrested he has to be charged.....

Hon. M.E. Charles: No, not a Dread, it's the society we are talking about that has no right of appeal. The right of appeal is given to persons who are so designated by the Minister but this is designated by the legislation, and they have no right to come and say that we are the Dreads Society referred to in this Bill and we wish to appeal because in fact, none of these things apply to us and therefore we cannot be

outlawed. It might help you to know who the officers are since in spite of all your knowledge about them..... (interruption)

Chairman: Are you saying that you can appeal to a Judge from the decision of the House of Assembly made into law? That's impossible.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Why, it is done all the time under the Customs Ordinance where the Customs Ordinance decides what so and so is, you can appeal..... (interruption)

Chairman: You cannot provide a right of appeal to a court from the decision from the House of Assembly. A very skilful lawyer could delay the effects of this Bill.

(all speaking at the same time)

Premier: If the police says that "you are a member of an unlawful association", the police will have to prove that before the Magistrate.

Hon. M.E. Charles: He will not have to prove that the Dreads should have been or not been an unlawful organisation, he has to prove whether he is a member of it.

Chairman: Anyhow, the argument is needless, because it cannot be done.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Take out the Schedule, then the Minister makes an order and then they have the right of appeal. Why are you giving privilege status to certain societies and not to the Dread societies? Why are you allowing other societies that are unlawful to have the right to appeal and this particular one not. Let us remove the schedule and tomorrow come out with your order that this is an unlawful one.

Chairman: So you are not sure whether the Dreads should be declared an unlawful society?

Hon. M.E. Charles: No, not that I am not sure, I am saying that everybody has a right to go to Court, give them the right to go to Court.

Chairman: The question is that clause 12 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 13 which is the old clause 12.

The question is that clause 13 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 14, which is the old clause 13.

Hon. M.E. Charles: Certainly if we are going to sit here for a whole day and discuss this, why should we allow that the Minister can at any time change any section that he wants changed. We must come back to the House. So much trouble we have gone through in detailing these things and the Minister is going to have the right to change them? Let us come back and amend the law if necessary. We have sat down a whole day discussing it and then you want the Minister to do all the things which you have not thought of. I think <sup>that</sup> it is far too wide.

(all speaking at the same time)

It is not a matter of raising funds where you give the Minister the

right. This is legislation in which you have taken away people's rights, or have circumscribed them. We are leaving out clause 13.

Hon. Premier: That's all right.

Chairman: The question is that clause 13 be deleted. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 14. The question is that clause 14 stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clause 15.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Clause 15 is the general clause which imposes a sentence of 18 months and two years. This is the first time in Dominica that we have a law which states not that you will get up to 18 months in the first instance and you will get up to two years for a subsequent conviction, but if you are convicted a sentence of 18 months shall be imposed in the case of a first conviction and of two years in case of a second conviction. Now, I believe in fairness to everyone that on the first offence you should give a discretion.

Hon. Premier: Discretion! What about the marijuana, a fellow may just ask for a puff and the police catches him and he has to pay \$500.00

Chairman: Mr. Armour, except that we are dealing with the rather dangerous circumstances in this country today.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: I am not saying that we are not dealing with dangerous circumstances. I am saying let us make it six and eighteen months.

(all speaking at the same time)

Hon. M.E. Charles: I am not happy about this clause, but I presume under the circumstances, we must, but I would really like the law to come up for review every six months, hopefully we will get rid of it after the first six months.

Hon. R.O.P. Armour: Why not make the period of sentence as you had it originally 9 months in the first instance and then your two years in case of a second conviction.

Hon. Premier: O.K. 9 months.

Chairman: 9 months, two years. Those in favour of the amendment? Those against? The Ayes have it.

The question is that clause 15, as amended, stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

and  
(all speaking/commenting on the Dread society and its identification)

Hon. M.E. Charles: Just Dreads; no description as to what Dreads are?

Schedule:

Chairman: The question is that the Schedule to the Bill stand part of the bill. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

(The Enacting Clause and Title were called and agreed to.)

Chairman: The question is that I do report the bill to the House.

(House resumes)

Speaker: House resumes and I have to report that the bill shortly entitled the "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act 1974," passed through the Committee stage with numerous amendments. And the question is that the report of the Committee be adopted. Those in favour? Those Against? The Ayes have it.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the bill shortly entitled "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, 1974", be read a third time and passed.

Hon. T. Etienne: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Speaker: It has been moved and seconded that the bill shortly entitled the "Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Association Act, 1974", be read a third time and passed. Those in favour? Those against? The Ayes have it.

Clerk: Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act, 1974.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I would like a division on this bill.

Speaker: A member has asked for a division. (to the Clerk: Take a division.)

Clerk:

Hon. P.R. John	Yes	Hon. Cleve Tavernier	Yes
Hon. T. Etienne	Yes	Hon. R.O.P. Armour	Yes
Hon. H.L. Christian	Yes	Hon. A. Moise	Aye
Hon. E.A. Leslie	Yes	Hon. R.S. Fabelle	Yes
Hon. J.L. Royer	Yes	Hon. M.E. Charles	Yes
Hon. A.C. Active	Yes	Hon. P.A.S. Stevens	Yes

(to Speaker) - 12 Ayes

Hon. M.E. Charles: I wish to have it noted that only one member did not speak on the bill and he has not voted on it. I mean Hon. E.J. Shillingford.

(Hon. E.J. Shillingford was at the time absent from the House.)

Speaker: Well the Ayes have it - 12-nil

The bill has been read a third time and passed accordingly.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ABOLITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ORDINANCE  
CAP. 29.

Hon. Premier: Mr. Speaker, I beg to introduce the bill shortly entitled "Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act, 1974."

Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Trade and Natural Resources, Mr. T. Etienne: I beg to second the motion.

Clerk: Abolition of Corporal Punishment (Amendment) Act, 1974.

Hon. Third Nominated Member, Miss M.E. Charles: (to the Premier) Have you any amendments?